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The Cotten family of North
Carolina



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The
COTTEN FAMILY
of
NORTH CAROLINA

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COTTEN FAMILY
of
NORTH CAROLINA

By
Bruce Cotten
Baltimore, Maryland
1929

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Chapter 1

The Cotten name. Cotton Family in England.
Early Cottons and Cottons in Virginia and
North Carolina.

It should be understood in the beginning that the name Cotten often appears in the early records of Virginia and North Carolina, as well as in England during the same period; spelled Cotten, Cotton and Cottin. The same person quite often used two or more forms and there are numerous cases in wills and other official documents wherein father and son are referred to with different orthography.

This variation in the spelling of their own names does not imply that these people were illiterate or even indifferent; but simply that there was no recognized system of spelling at that time. The commodity cotton was often spelled cotten and cottin and in proper names especially each person used the form that best produced the correct sound to his own ear.

Early in the XVIII Century orthography began to take on a fixed system and then it was that the form Cotten began to disappear and the name gradually became very generally spelled Cotton and now so generally is this form used that an examination of the directories of all the leading cities and towns in England does not disclose the name Cotten at all though prior to about 1750 there are innumerable wills, records and other papers in which this form is used.

However, the descendants of John Cotten of Bertie in the Province of North Carolina have persistently refused to accept this change and the form Cotten has remained fixed in this family since the earliest known records, and it would indeed appear to be the correct spelling of the name since it can easily be shown that the name is derived from the Saxon word cote, literally meaning a cottage, cotten being the proper Saxon plural and meaning cottages.

In this connection it must be remembered that our present name system is a development of several centuries and that for only a few centuries now have family names been used at all. When it became necessary and convenient to further identify a person, the name of his home or locality to which he belonged was added, or that of his occupation or something in reference to his life, peculiarities or achievements that was known to the community and sufficient to identify him.

Regulations were established and recognized in the adoption of these names and in England proper these regulations were quite strictly observed.

Proprietors gradually adopted the names of their estates, using at first the prefix "De" while freemen belonging to the same place often adopted the same name with the prefix "At" which has been retained in many names. Tradespeople and laborers were allowed the names of their trade or occupation while many others took the names of objects, animals, or as in many cases fancy names.

An examination of the Domesday Book shows that there were, at the time of the Conquest, several places in England that were known as Coten or Cotten because these places contained a cottage or cottages. It was in Cheshire however where the proprietor appears to have taken the place name without suffix and it is to this county that all the Cotten Families in England seem to trace their origin. There is still a township in this county called Cotton and it is to this section that the name Cotton is traced, or at least the best known families of that name are traced.

In the early records of this locality, that is during the eleventh and twelfth centuries, the place was called Coten or Cotun, during the thirteenth century it became Cottun and Cotten. Several names have been preserved of that period, such as Edmond De Coten and Hugh De Coten, from both of whom are descended numerous and distinguished branches of the Cotton family. While the family originated in Cheshire and is said to have been of Saxon origin, they gradually extended through the middle counties of England and the name now, while not at all common, is found widely scattered throughout the British Empire. There are two well defined families, both of well ascertained antiquity, and both originating in Cheshire. They were probably of the same origin, but as far back as any records extend, have been considered as two separate and distinct families.

One of these "The Cottons of Cotton Edmonds" is descended from Edmond Cotton or De Coten who during the reign of Henry the Second (1154-1189) acquired the manor still known as Cotton Edmonds in County Cheshire. This manor remained in the elder branch of this family until 1650 when it was sold. The old beam house known as Cotton Hall is still standing, though occupied by a tenant. The arms of this family are — "Argent, a band Sable between three pellets Saber."*

Many younger branches and collateral lines of this family have come into existence during the last eight hundred years. Several have been prominent for generations then disappeared into oblivion, while others have risen from obscurity and likewise disappeared to rise again perhaps a century later. The genealogical data obtainable concerning this family would fill many volumes.

Sir Robert Bruce Cotton the distinguished antiquary and scholar is perhaps the best known member of this family. He was descended from Wil-

*The ordinaries of this coat were acquired by purchase from the Grovenor family by William De Coten in the thirteenth century. The selling of ordinaries with differences was very common in the early history of heraldry.

llam, a son of Edmond Cotton of Cotton Edmonds. This William acquired a large estate in Stafford by marriage with a Miss Ridgway in the XVI century and the descendants of this marriage adopted the arms of Ridgway, as was proper and customary in those days upon marriage with a considerable heiress. In the XIV Century a younger son of this branch, William who was slain at the battle of St. Albans in 1461, married Mary De Wessenham, a granddaughter of Sir John De Bruce of Scotland. From this marriage Sir Robert Bruce Cotton was directly descended. He always manifested pride upon this descent from the Scottish Kings, and King James the First of England, besides living on terms of great intimacy with Cotton, always referred to him as cousin.

Sir Robert was renowned throughout England and Europe for his learning and for his vast collection of original state papers, early books and manuscripts, which is familiarly known to the world as "The Cottonian Library". This collection consists of thousands of original state papers, letters of early Kings and Statesmen, together with early writings of every description. This library became a matter of much political strife in England and was finally presented to the English Government by the family in 1752 and became the foundation of the present Library of the British Museum. For this, presentation of the most valuable library in the world, two directors of this institution were made hereditary in the Cotton family an honor that has been conferred upon only one other family.

Very many other members of this family have been distinguished in English affairs, among whom can be mentioned William Cotton, Bishop of Exeter* who died in 1621 and who lies buried under a beautiful monument in the Cathedral of Exeter and near the monument of his nephew Edmond Cotton who was treasurer of the See of Exeter and fond of wine and women, it is said, to an extent unbecoming in one holding so pious a position.

The Cottons of Landwade and of Mandingley Hall Cambridgeshire trace their descent to Edmond Cotton of Cotton Edmonds. Sir John Hynde Cotton, a celebrated Jacobite politician in his day belonged to this family. He was a member of the Council of Trade 1712-1714 and as such was brought into rather intimate relations with American affairs. A letter signed by him dated June 18th, 1713 recommending Charles Eden for appointment as Governor of North Carolina is published in the Colonial Records of North Carolina. His son John Cotton inherited, it is thought, from his mother Lady Lettice Crowley, who was a great heiress, a Proprietary share in the Colony of North Carolina, which right was sold to the Crown along with other rights in 1727; John Cotton at that time being a minor and being represented in this transaction by Archibald Hutcheson of Middle Temple London. His son Sir Charles Cotton was a distinguished Admiral in the Royal Navy and was father of Sir St. Vincent Cotton famous gambler, hunter and black-leg.

The other Cotton family also originating as has been shown in Cheshire is known as "The Cottons' of Cotton". This family trace their descent

*A very complete table of the ancestry and descendants of Bishop Cotton is published in Maclean's Trigg Manor, Vol. 1, pp. 642-643.

from Hugh Cotton or De Coten who during the reign of Henry the Second became proprietor of Coten, or Cotton as it is now known in Cheshire. Their Arms as allowed by Dugdale in 1663 are "Azure, a chevron between three cotton hanks Argent."

Like the Cottons of Cotton Edmonds this family has produced many men of note and distinction in English affairs. The best known branch being the Cottons of Combermere Abby in Cheshire. This place, Combermere Abby, was the seat of a brotherhood of Benedictine Monks during the Twelfth Century and was granted to Sir George Cotton of Cotton in 1553 by Henry VIII at the abolition of monastic orders in England, and has continued in the elder branch of this family to the present day.

The most distinguished representative of this family is Sir Stapleton Cotton (1773-1865) sixth baronet and First Viscount Combermere, Colonel of the First Life Guard, Constable of the Tower of London, Field Marshal in his Majesties Armies and Commander in Chief of His Majesties forces in Ireland and India where he served for many years with most distinguished merit.

Besides the elder line, several younger branches of this family have produced many men of note. Of especial interest is the family of Henry Calvely Cotton Esq. an uncle of the First Viscount Combermere. Of eleven sons in this family, four became Generals in the British Army, three Admirals in the Royal Navy, while Richard Lynch Cotton D.L. was celebrated as Provost of Worcester College. General Sir Willoughby Cotton (1783-1869) and George Lynch Cotton D.L. (1813-1866) Lord Bishop of Calcutta were also closely related to this family.

From the little that has been said here concerning the Cotton name in England, it can be readily understood that from a family of so great antiquity, very many younger branches have come into existence and have been multiplied many times during the last seven or eight hundred years. Very voluminous records exist concerning many of these lines, from some of which it is certain the Cotten family of North Carolina is descended, for there is no question but that the names Cotton and Cotten were the same. However, until it is established to which branch the progenitor of the North Carolina family belongs, it is not relevant to our subject here to introduce any extensive study of the family name in England.

Several members of the Cotton family very early became interested in American affairs and became identified with efforts to establish colonies on these shores. Allen Cotton of London contributed to the efforts and adventures of Sir Humphry Gilbert and later became a member of the Virginia company which established Jamestown. Sir Roland Cotton also was a member of this company as well as Sir Robert Bruce Cotton the great antiquary who was a member from its organization and much interested in the Jamestown venture.

The first Cotten known to have come to this country was Robert Cotten who arrived with what is known as the first supply on the Phoenix, April 20th, 1608. His occupation is given as a Tobacco Pipe Maker but nothing

whatever has been discovered concerning him. He was followed about 1630 by Rev. William Cotton son of Joane a widow of Bunbury in Cheshire.

This Mr. Cotton settled in Accomac on the eastern shore of Virginia and was the leading minister of the colony during his lifetime. His wife, Ann Graves, came over with him. Mr. Cotton died in 1646 leaving several daughters one of whom, Valinda, married William Stone who settled in Charles County Maryland and became the first Protestant Governor of that Province. He built and owned the beautiful house "Whitehall" which remains today one of the show places in Maryland.

About 1650 there came over John Cotton or Cotten and his wife Ann who settled on Queens Creek in Virginia and who are entitled to some special mention on account of two very splendid manuscripts from their pen which have been preserved and published. The first of these Cotton papers is entitled "Our Late Troubles in Virginia" and was written and signed by Ann Cotton at Q Creek in Virginia in 1676. This account is a letter of about three thousand words and is a description of Bacon's Rebellion. It is a very valuable account of that interesting affair, which so distracted His Majesties Plantations, one hundred years before the Revolution.

It is written in the quaint and dignified English of that period and displays some splendid humor in parts. The account is addressed to C. H. at Yardly in Northamptonshire, the paper itself no doubt being a copy retained by Mrs. Cotten, hence the initials at the head. With this paper is an unsigned letter marked "To his wife A.C. at Q Creek" and is dated "Town June 9th, 1676" this being a letter from her husband and also refers to Bacon's Rebellion. These papers were published from the original manuscripts by the Richmond, Va. Enquirer Sept. 12th, 1804 from which they were republished by Peter Force in his Historical Tracts Vol. 1 1830.

While this paper of Mrs. Cotton's has been used and valued by historians for years, no serious effort it seems has ever been made to establish her identity. In a study of the paper itself we gather that Mr. C.H. (thought to be a Mr. Harrison) formerly lived in Virginia and that his wife's mother was married to Col. Nathaniel Bacon Sr. who was a cousin of that Nathaniel Bacon the so called Rebel but not associated in anyway with him in that enterprise. While living in Virginia it is apparent that Mr. C. H. was on very friendly terms with the Cottons and had been carrying on a correspondence with them since his return to England. It further appears that he knew all the leading men of the Colony, including Col. Washington, grandfather of George Washington, whom he sometimes had at his house. Also he and the Cottons were well acquainted with Col. Swann, Col. Beale, Col. Ballard, Esquire Bray, Col. Jorden, Col. Smith, of Purton, Col. Scarbrook, Col. Miller, Col. Lawrence and Mr. Drommond late Governor of Carolina.

These were all leading men in the colony and like the Cottons were in sympathy with Bacon in his efforts, Col. Lawrence and Mr. Drummond losing their lives in this effort.

The Yardly mentioned is no doubt Yardly Hastings, a small place in

Northamptonshire, but as for Mrs. Cotton herself nothing whatever can be gathered from this paper. The letter is written in response to one that Mr. C. H. had written to her husband who "can not respond but has given me his permission to do so." It is inferred that the Cottons were in trouble over this rebellion and it is also evident that they had been in the province a long time and that she and her husband were prosperous and well to do in Virginia.

The other manuscript is very much longer than Mrs. Cotton's letter and is divided into two parts entitled "Bacons Progress" and "Ingrams Progress" Ingram having taken command of the rebellion at the sudden death of Bacon. A few pages both at the beginning and end of this paper are missing and it is therefore not signed. It is however accredited to John Cotton, the husband of Ann as it seems surely to have been written by the same person who wrote the letter marked "To his wife A.C." referred to above.

This manuscript was found by the Hon. W. A. Burwell among his father's papers and Mr. Burwell presented it to Hon. Josiah Quincy of Mass. and in a letter dated Dec. 20th, 1812 states that his father had procured the paper from an old and respectable family in Virginia. The paper is now in the Mass. Historical Society's collection and was also published by Mr. Peter Force in his Historical Tracts in 1830. Like the paper of Mrs. Cotton however this manuscript throws no light whatever on the Cottons.

In addition to those mentioned above numerous references are found to a number of other Cottons and Cottens who were in Virginia prior to 1700. The records however contain no information beyond the mere mention of their names, and it is improbable that anything further will be discovered concerning these persons.

Rowland Cotton and Richard Cotton, religious dissenter, age 22 and 20 respectively were transported to Virginia in 1635. Willi Cotten arrived in 1637, Cecely Cottin in 1637, William Cotten in 1638, Margt. Cotten in 1638, William Cottin in 1650, Hough Cotten in 1652.

There was a John Cotton "sonney of John and Hanna Cotten" baptised in Accomac County Va. Dec. 8th, 1661. A John Cottin died in Isle of Wight Co. in 1691, William Cotton and Thomas Cotton were in the Surry County Militia in 1687. William Cotten and Richard Cotten in Isle of Wight in 1701 and a Charles Cotton in Henrico Co. in 1707.

As before stated the identity of these people will probably never be established, but the appearance of the name so frequently mentioned in the records show that there were a considerable number of this name early settled in Virginia and that most of them resided south of the James River and along the North Carolina line.

While these things were going on and while Mrs. Ann Cotton was writing her "Late Troubles in Virginia" many families were moving beyond the Virginia line on the south and taking up the rich lands along the rivers and creeks emptying into Albemarle Sound. Until about 1650 there were probably no families living in what is now North Carolina, the rivers and sounds how-

ever were quite well known and frequented by traders and renegade white men living with the Indians. The number of families increased quite rapidly after 1660. Oldmixon says there were three hundred families in this section in 1663. Weeks estimates "five hundred families in 1665" and after Bacon's Rebellion in 1676 many well to do families who were dissatisfied or affected by this occurrence moved with their possessions to the land along these streams and the northern shores of Albemarle Sound.

In this settlement the name of Cotten very early appeared the first official record of which is the will of John Cotten of Pasquotank whose will dated 1691 is on record in the Secretary of State's Office, Raleigh, N.C. He left one child a son Humphrey Cotten who was an infant at the time and of whom we have no further record. There is much evidence that there were also other Cottens in the Albemarle section prior to and shortly after 1700, indeed the name became quite common in certain sections very much later, so by 1790 when the first Federal Census was taken there were thirty-four Cotten families in the state, residing in fifteen counties, having fifty-two males over sixteen years of age, forty-five males under sixteen, seventy-six females and owning one hundred and sixty-four slaves. It can be shown that most of these families indeed descended from John Cotten who died in Bertie County in 1728. This number had decreased tremendously by the census of 1800 and still further by 1810, showing that many of them had joined that steady stream of migrants that has flown from North Carolina from the earliest times to the west and south.

Whether or not all of these people originally sprang from the same family can not of course now be determined, it is certain that they represented widely varying degrees of education, position and wealth and that many of them had no knowledge of the others existence.

Chapter 2

John Cotten of Bertie Precinct in North Carolina; Gent.
The Progenitor of the Cotten Family in North Carolina.

1 — JOHN COTTEN, born about 1650, died 1728 is the first of this family of whom we have authentic record and is therefore the progenitor of the name in North Carolina.

So far nothing has been found to show, or even indicate, where he came from or who his parents were. He might have come from England and settled in Virginia, or he might have come from the Island of Barbados to Virginia; a supposition suggested by the fact that there were a number of Cottens in Barbados prior to 1700 and that there was a very considerable emigration from that Island to Virginia and the Albemarle section of North Carolina between the years 1680 and 1700.

(However, anything that is said concerning this question at present is mere conjecture,) he could have been born and raised in Virginia a son of John and Ann Cotten of Q Creek or he could have been the John Cotten "sonney of John and Hannah Cotten" baptised in Accomac County in 1661. Very extensive research has been made in an effort to establish his antecedents but so far without success. He may have been a brother of Thomas Cotten and Walter Cotten both of whom had land in the adjoining Co. of Surry in 1704.

We only know that he must have been born about 1650, married about 1684 and have record of him as early as 1701 residing at South Quay on the Blackwater river in Virginia. This place is about four miles below the present town of Franklin and about the same distance from the North Carolina line. It is on the Nansemond county side of the river and appears on the earliest map made of that section in 1695. It was a port of entry before and during the Revolutionary War and was burned in 1781 by a raiding party of English troops sent out for that purpose. After Norfolk was evacuated by the Confederate forces early during the civil war, it again, for a while, became a point of some activity, but today it is a quiet little country place prettily situated on the banks of the river.

John Cotten is thought to have conducted a trading post here for many years in connection with his plantations.* In those days, there being no

*The records of Nansemond Co. Va. would no doubt have given some information concerning John Cotten but unfortunately they were destroyed by fire many years ago. The records of Isle of Wight Co. may contain information of worth but the records here are in such bad condition that it will require very considerable time to look them over.

roads the Blackwater, Nottoway and Chowan Rivers were the highways of travel and commerce between Virginia and the fringe of settlers who had planted themselves along the shores of Albemarle Sound. Canoes and flat boats traversed these streams almost to the James, and in this way we find that Mrs. Hyde the widow of the late Governor of North Carolina elected to return to Virginia in 1713, stopped at John Cotten's at South Quay and that Gov. Spotswood took advantage of these canoes to forward four barrels of powder to Gov. Pollock of North Carolina.

There is numerous evidence that "John Cottens" was a well-known place both in Virginia and in North Carolina. It is often referred to simply as "John Cotten's", just as we would refer to a town today. Such mention is made in the correspondence of Gov. Spotswood of Virginia, Col. Pollock of North Carolina, Mr. Thomas Lawson, the Surveyor General of North Carolina, and by Col. Phillip Ludwell of Virginia at one time governor of North Carolina.

John Cotten's place at South Quay seems to have been a general stop-over place for travelers, and a place of commercial exchange between the two colonies. It was at John Cotten's that the supplies sent from Virginia for the use of the North Carolina troops during the Indian troubles of 1712-1713 were turned over. Under date of Dec. 23rd, 1712, Gov. Pollock wrote to Spotswood "wherefore would earnestly entreat your honor to order the duffells* for us at Mr. John Cotten's at Blackwater, likewise a dozen spades, twenty brass pans and about fifty or sixty hand grenades, they being very necessary in the taking of forts. I shall have a boat or canoes at John Cottens by Monday next." To which Spotswood replied at some length Jan. 15th, 1713 and desired Pollock to meet him at John Cotten's for consultation concerning Indian affairs. To this proposition Pollock assented and added "Upon receipt of your letter I sent away a runner to Tom Blount# to desire him to be at Mr. Cotten's by the 20th."

It seems that Spotswood made this trip to John Cotten's to meet Pollock and brought with him the hand grenades and duffells requested. Pollock however did not put in an appearance but sent a representative to receive the supplies. This so angered Spotswood that he wrote Pollock some spicy letters and reported the incident to the Virginia Assembly, remarking that the people of North Carolina were an unappreciative lot of sluggish backwoodsmen and recommending that the Province of North Carolina be mortgaged in order to carry on the war against the Indians.

Anyway the duffells and hand grenades were received and did good service, the grenades being used with good effect in the capture of the Indian Fort Nohoroca, situated at or near the present town of Snow Hill in Green County.

*A heavy woolen goods, used for both blankets and clothing by soldiers.

#Tom Blount was an Indian Chief of the Tuskerorer nation said to have been a half breed and to have taken his name from Tom Blount an ancient inhabitant of the Albemarle. His Faction of the Tuskerorers were friendly to the English and resided in what is now Bertie County.

In 1719 John Cotten moved with his family to North Carolina where he purchased a plantation from his friend Frederick Jones, who was at that time Chief Justice of the Colony and a man of means and much influence. This place is described in the deed as containing eight hundred acres and was located on Meharrin Creek (now Potecase Creek) between Cat Tail Branch and Deep Creek. Included in the sale is mentioned all houses, edifices, buildings, orchards, gardens, ways and water courses. So it would appear that the place was improved at that time. It was located in what was then Chowan Precinct, but in 1722 it became Bertie County. In 1741 this part of Bertie County became Northampton Co. and in 1759 this part of Northampton became Hertford Co.

The same year John Cotten purchased 540 acres of land from Thomas Dyal, lying on Ahosky in what is now Hertford Co. and it is this tract that is supposed to have become in after years Mulberry Grove, the seat of his son Arthur Cotten. It appears that John Cotten occupied this place for a year before he bought it. When finding it agreeable and suitable perhaps to his family he made the purchase and lived there until his death in 1728. At the time he made this move he was quite an old man and was the father of at least fourteen children. In making this move there is no doubt that he was influenced greatly by the fact that several grown sons had preceded him to this section of North Carolina where they had settled; also there is reason to believe that his friend Frederick Jones used his influence to induce him to become a citizen of the Albemarle settlement.

Three years after his arrival at the Colony, that is in 1722, John Cotten was appointed a Justice of the General Court, which fact following soon after his arrival speaks well for his standing and position in the Colony. The Commission from the Lords Proprietors appointing a new court of which he was a member was read at the General Court in Edenton July 1722. It appears however that John Cotten had served on the General Court held in March and April of that year.

This General Court was the first court established in the Province and became known as the General Court after the formation of the Precinct Court. It was the appellate Court of the Colony and the prototype of the present Supreme Court of the State. In 1685 the Proprietors ordered the appointment of "four discreet men" to be Justices of the County of Albemarle, which appointment however was not made it seems until 1702. In 1713 one of the Justices was made Chief Justice, Christopher Gale being the first Chief Justice and was Chief Justice for the second time at the time John Cotten was an assistant Justice. All members of the court were of equal authority and power, a majority deciding a case.

There is no record of John Cotten ever attending but one session of the General Court that was for March and April 1722. This was caused perhaps by his advancing years and the hardship attending the trip to Edenton in an open boat. He was perhaps further influenced to withdraw from any participation in colonial politics, by the death of his friend Frederick Jones which occurred in April 1722, and was immediately followed by the ascendancy of

Jones' political enemies to power and leadership.

It must be remembered that official authority in North Carolina was hardly at any time during the colonial period, peacefully and harmoniously exercised. Quite to the contrary in fact for during the years between 1670 and 1713 we find that the people forcibly drove from office six of their fourteen Governors and there had been two actual rebellions. Spotswood remarked that "the people were so used to turning out their Governors that they thought they had a right to do so."

During John Cotten's lifetime and for many years afterwards the Colony was rent and public affairs confused or entirely neglected on account of the bitter quarrels and jealousies of Porter, Mosely, Gale and others. Such a condition in a government then numbering only about twenty-five hundred taxables must have made the holding of public office quite undesirable.

Of the cases disposed of at the session that John Cotten attended there were, three murder cases, several cases of sheep and hog stealing and a case of scandalous speaking and Sabbath breaking. Among the punishments imposed was, branding in the presence of the Court and the whipping post. One man convicted of petty larceny was sentenced "to be tied to the tail of a cart and to be whipped through the streets of Edenton and that next Friday he be whipped in like manner through the streets of Bath Town."

According to the records John Cotten himself was indicted by this court, July 27th, 1725 for having "married a mulatto man to a white woman." This indictment however was dismissed without trial and it is inferred that this was the work of some of his enemies or more probably of Jones' enemies. John Cotten also had an extensive law suit with John Gray of Bertie in 1723 concerning land which suit is set forth in full in Hawks History of North Carolina as an example of the court procedure in such cases at that time. He was also a collector of Quit Rents and a Justice of the Peace which was an office of great dignity at that time, the appointment having been made for life or good behavior.

John Cotten married Martha Godwin a daughter of William Godwin and wife Elizabeth of Isle of Wight Co. Va. William Godwin died in 1712 and his will is preserved in the records of Isle of Wight Co. The Godwins were among the earliest settlers in Isle of Wight Co. and in Nansemond Co. Virginia and the records concerning this family are very extensive.

The only thing left to us today of John Cotten is his will which is on record in the Secretary of State Office Raleigh N.C. and which was probated in May Court, Bertie County 1728. This will is not dated but was probably written shortly after John Cotten came to North Carolina and prior to the creation of Bertie Precinct into Bertie County, for he speaks of himself as "I John Cotten of Bertie Precinct in North Carolina, Gent." Bertie Precinct became Bertie County in 1722. All wills in North Carolina were deposited in the office of the Secretary of State prior to about 1760 and it is to this fact perhaps that we are indebted to the preservation of this paper, which is a very long and interesting will and a very important paper in establishing Cot-

ten connections.

He divides a great deal of land, personal property, negroes, furniture, tables, pewter dishes, hogs, cows, sheep and lambs, millstones, spindles, any number of feather beds, woolen rugs, blankets and material for making and trimming suits of clothes. To each of his sons he gives fifty bushels of oyster shells, to daughter Susannah as much silk stuff as will make her a suit of clothes. Sons William and Samuel are evidently in need of a better house than they then occupied for he leaves them "sawed boards" for that purpose and the oyster shells were evidently intended for the purpose of making lime for use in the construction of chimneys.

He further mentions a number of things that shall be sold for silver money and divided between his four smaller children — Arthur, Priscilla, James and Thomas. Arthur, James and Thomas were also to be "Fred and go for themselves when they are eighteen years of age." He divides 2110 acres of land among his sons and leaves the residue, which must have been considerable to his "loving wife Martha." He also leaves to his wife Martha Cotten "a side saddle and riding horse called by name Beck" and lastly he appoints his loving friends Thomas Bryand and William Bunnette to be overseers "In case my wife should marry again and her marriage prove unhappy to her and my four small children." He mentions by name twelve children living and two sons-in-law, John Thomas and Capt. John Spear which indicates that two married daughters had died before this will was made. His daughter Martha was a widow at that time her husband Francis Benton, deceased being mentioned.

The exact order of the birth of these children is uncertain but from the sequence in which they are mentioned in the will and from other evidence and indications; they have been arranged in the following order which for the first two and last four is certainly correct.

- 1- John Cotten—for whom see Chapter 3.
- 2- Samuel Cotten—for whom see Chapter 4.
- 3- Martha Cotten—Mrs. Francis Benton.
- 4- ? Ann Cotten—Mrs. John Thomas.
- 5- Mary Cotten—Mrs. ? Holland.
- 6- Patience Cotten—Mrs. (Captain) John Spear.
- 7- William Cotten—for whom see Chapter 5.
- 8- Joseph Cotten—for whom see Chapter 6.
- 9- Alexander Cotten—for whom see Chapter 7.
- 10- Susanna Cotten—young lady at the time of her father's death.
- 11- Arthur Cotten—for whom see Chapter 8.
- 12- Priscilla Cotten—young lady at the time of her father's death.
- 13- James Cotten.
- 14- Thomas Cotten.

In a family so large as this, all of whom reached maturity, it is quite certain that there were others who died in infancy and whose names therefore have been lost. The difference in age between the first born and the last is

also very considerable, so that the descendants of John have one more generation than the descendants of Arthur.

The descendants of only six of these children can be traced to the present generation, these incomplete as they are follow in the order given.

Chapter 3

Descendants of John Cotten through his son John "The Cottens of John"

2 - John Cotten² (John¹). Eldest son of John Cotten of Bertie, was born in Virginia about 1684. He came to North Carolina in early manhood and settled on Ahosky Ridge in what is now Hertford County, N. C. His name rarely occurs in the records and nothing is known concerning his life.

He married Ann Jones a daughter of John Jones Sr. and wife Martha. John Jones, Sr. died in 1735 and was the progenitor of the Jones Family of Pitch Landing in Hertford County, N. C. A great granddaughter of his, Polly Jones, married Isaac Moore (see 57 & 70) and a great great granddaughter, Ann Jones Ward married John W. Moore (see).

John Cotten died Feb. 2nd, 1741 and from a noncupative will dated Jan. 17th, 1741 we find that he was possessed of a good estate and left the following children.

- 1 — John Cotten — for whom see 3.
- 2 — Benjamin Cotten — who removed to Edgecombe Co. and bought land April 12th, 1767 on Conete where Edgecombe, Pitt and Martin Counties now join. There is no record of any marriage or death, but he was dead in 1789 as land sold at that time is described as "land whereon Benjamin Cotten lived and died".
- 3 — Mary Cotten — married George Brewere of Northampton Co. He died in 1757 leaving sons — Rawls, George, Mathew and John Brewer ∠sic∠ of whom there is no further record.
- 4 — Ann Cotten — no further record.
- 5 — Sarah Cotten — supposed to have married Henry Hill of Chowan Co. N. C. They removed to Georgia and left numerous descendants which have been well looked up and published by Mr. Lodowick J. Hill of Atlanta, Ga. in his Hills of Wilkes Co. Georgia.

3 - John Cotten³ (John² - John¹). Resided in Northampton Co. N. C. He was a very wealthy man for that period and in his will, dated Sept. 6th, 1782 he mentions besides other lands nineteen plantations located in Northampton, Bertie, Halifax and Chatham Cos. He married first "unknown" by whom he had four children. He married secondly Mary Tart daughter of James Tart and his wife Priscilla Cotten a daughter of William Cotten

(see). His first wife is thought to have been also named Mary since he had two daughters named Mary. He died in 1782 leaving children by his first wife as follows:-

- 1 — Josiah Cotten — for whom see 4.
- 2 — Jobe Cotten — for whom see 8.
- 3 — Mary Cotten — married James Abington a Baptist Minister of Bertie Co. An early biographer says that Rev. Mr. Abington "Before he became religious he was man much addicted to sporting and gaming and very vicious in his life and conversation" but after conversion "He was a man of bright genius a ready mind, a good voice and was a Beaerges in preaching the word"
- 4 — Sally Cotten — married a Mr. House.

By his second wife Mary Tart, John Cotten left seven sons and one daughter all of whom were under age when he died in 1782. No descendants have been discovered of any of these children. Left very well off in life there is evidence that these young brothers, with the exception of John, became victims of dissipations and most of them went to an early grave. They were: -

- 1 — William Cotten — died in Northampton Co. March 1794. Unmarried.
- 2 — James — no record after 1794.
- 3 — Henry — represented Northampton Co. in the Legislature 1795 to 1802. Afterwards he became a citizen of Tarboro in Edgecombe Co. where he was living as late as 1824. In 1821 he appears to have gotten himself in financial troubles and turned over to his brother John Cotten, 25 slaves, 450 hogs and 7,000 lbs. of bacon along with much other property for debts that John had gone security for. Married Sophia Mumford Sept. 23rd, 1806.
- 4 — Johnathan Cotten — died prior to 1795.
- 5 — Allen Cotten * — died Sept. 1795 unmarried.
- 6 — Willie Cotten * — died in Edgecombe Co. Nov. 26th, 1805.
- 7 — John Cotten — went to Edgecombe Co. married Elizabeth Andrews daughter of Andrews and wife Mary Battle. Mary Battle was daughter of John Battle and wife Francis Davis. John Cotten appears from the records to have been a man of large means. He represented Edgecombe Co. in the Legislature 1807. After 1824 his name does not appear in the county records and he is thought to have left the state.

*Twins named for Generals Allen and Willie Jones, prominent leaders in Northampton and Halifax Counties during and after the Revolutionary War.

- 7 — John Cotten removed to Edgecombe Co. where he resided and owned large estates on Tar River eight miles above Tarboro. He was a man of large means. He married Elizabeth Andrews daughter of Cullin Andrews and wife Mary Battle a daughter of John Battle and wife Francis Davis. For children see Battle book pp. 384 - 385. Wife d - Jan 19th, 1810.

Copy from Battle book.

- 8 — Mary Cotten — no further record.

- 4 - Josiah Cotten⁴ (John³ - John² - John¹). Son of John Cotten. Married April 23rd, 1777 Elizabeth Skinner a daughter of General William Skinner of Perquimans County and his wife "unknown". Gen. Skinner was a son of Richard Skinner who came to the colony of North Carolina about 1700 and was the progenitor of the Skinner Family of the Albemarle section. Gen. Skinner was an active leader in Eastern Carolina during the Revolutionary War and afterwards.

Josiah Cotten was elected a Captain in The Seventh Reg. North Carolina Troops Nov. 28th, 1776 but resigned prior to Dec. 19th same year. He may have re-entered the service for Hietman has him retired June 1st, 1778. After his marriage with Miss Skinner he resided in Perquimans Co. where he died June 8th, 1781.

- 1 — Penelopy Cotten — b-Feb. 7th, 1778.
- 2 — Elizabeth Cotten — b-Aug. 9th, 1779. Living in 1798.
- 3 — Dolly Cotten — for whom see 5.

- 5 - Dolly Cotten⁵ (Josiah⁴ - John³ - John² - John¹). Born Dec. 11th, 1780. d-in 1816. Married 1797 William Blount (b-1773) second son of Edmond Blount and wife Mary Hoskins. There were of this marriage eight children as follows: -

- 1 — Mary Elizabeth Blount — b-1798 d-1811.
- 2 — Amelia Ann Blount — b-1800 d-1803.
- 3 — Elizabeth Cotten Blount — b-1801 d-1803.
- 4 — John Henry Blount — for whom see 6.
- 5 — Josiah Cotten Blount — b-1806 d-1838. Married Nancy Pendleton.
- 6 — Sarah Glover Blount — b-1809 d-1810.
- 7 — William Skinner Blount — b-1811 married Eliza Haughton and had one son William Blount who died in 1870.
- 8 — Edmond Charles Blount — for whom see 7.

- 6 - John Henry Blount⁶ (Dolly⁵ - Josiah⁴ - John³ - John² - John¹). Married Martha Leigh and left two children.

- 1 — Richard H. L. Blount — b-1831 married 1855 Rebecca Whedbee and left two sons (a) John Henry Blount an able lawyer who married Kate Staton of Edgecombe Co. and died in Greenville, N.C. about 1897. No issue. (b) Richard H. L. Blount.

2 — Martha Penelope Blount — b-1838 married 1855 Seth Sumner Whedbee and had twelve children as follows: -

- a - Josiah Leigh Whedbee.
- b - James Pennel Whedbee.
- c - Seth Sumner Whedbee.
- d - John Blount Whedbee.
- e - Richard Henry Whedbee.
- f - Helen Vaughan Whedbee.
- g - Thomas Clayton Whedbee.
- h - Martha Rebecca Whedbee.
- i - Edward West Whedbee.
- j - Tanel Warren Whedbee.
- k - Marion McMorine Whedbee.
- l - George Whedbee.

7 - Edmond Charles Blount⁶ (Dolly⁵ - Josiah⁴ - John³ - John² - John¹). Married first Pheribee Townsend. Secondly - Mary Benbury. Third - Mrs. Mary Whedbee widow of Thomas C. Whedbee. There were five children by his second marriage only two of whom lived to maturity.

- 1 — Mary Blount — married George W. Whedbee.
- 2 — Florence Blount — married a Mr. Thornton of W. Va.

8 - Jobe Cotten⁴ (John³ - John² - John¹). b-1736 d-1796. Was eldest son of John Cotten (3) and his first wife "unknown". By his father's will he inherited the plantations, whereon he then resided, in Halifax Co. and where he continued to live "in the Scotland Neck" until his death. He married Anna Wilson an aunt of Gen. Louis D. Wilson of Edgecombe Co. for whom Wilson County was named.

- 1 — Whitmel Cotten — for whom see 20.
- 2 — John Cotten — for whom see 9.
- 3 — James Wilson Cotten — never married died in Halifax Co. N.C. Aug. 1856.
- 4 — Josiah Cotten — is said to have gone to Tenn. No record.
- 5 — Robert Cotten — for whom see 12.
- 6 — Mary Cotten — no record. Under age in 1796.
- 6 — Mary Cotten — daughter of Jobe Cotten is said to have married John B. Acree of Bertie Co. N. C. They had at least one son Jobe Cotten Acree b-Sept. 15th, 1899. d-in Tenn. 1885. He married Sophia Campbell b-Dec. 24th, 1805 daughter of Carter Marshall b-Carolina Co. Va. 1770 and wife Ann Cambell daughter of William Cambell of same Co. Jobe Cotten Acree left descendants. (John T. Landis 59 Farrand Park, Detroit.)
- 7 — Dorathy M. Cotten — never married. died in Halifax Co. N.C. Feb. 1849.
- 8 — Elizabeth Cotten — d-1834. Married Mr. Nelms of Halifax Co. and left children.
 - a - Ann Wilson Nelms married G. N. Steptoe and had children-

Virginia-Martha and Georgiana.

b - Adline Nelms — married a Mr. Hervy.

- 9 - John Cotten⁵ (Jobe⁴ - John³ - John² - John¹). Son of Jobe (8) went west as a young man. Married in Ky. to Sarah Easter Nelson (b-1815) (d-March 10, 1834). He resided for some time near Memphis Tenn. then moved to Ark. where he died in 1836 leaving an only son.

1 — John Newton Cotten — for whom see 10.

- 10 - John Newton Cotten⁶ (John⁵ - Jobe⁴ - John³ - John² - John¹). b-March 2d, 1834 and still living (Feb. 1921). He served in the Confederate Army as 1st Lieut. in an Ark. Reg. and was severely wounded at Tupelo Miss.

He married first Letha Carolina Taylor, June 20th, 1859. She was a daughter of Cyrus Taylor and wife Mary Pryer and was born in 1841 and died in 1865. Mr. Cotten married secondly Mrs. Louise Pruett. By his first wife he had one child

1 — Emma Howell Cotten — for whom see 11.

By his second wife Mrs. Louise Pruett Mr. Cotten had:

- 1 — Guy P. Cotten — resides in Memphis Tenn.
- 2 — Edna Cotten — married Mr. Ramsey and resides in Memphis, Tenn.

- 11 - Emma Howell Cotten⁷ (John⁶ - John⁵ - Jobe⁴ - John³ - John² - John¹). b-April 20th, 1862. Married June 12th, 1879 Mark Whitaker Izard (b-March 2d, 1855) son of Flaveus Josephus Izard (1825-1902) and wife Sarah Elizabeth Whitaker (1835-1895).

They reside in Hot Springs, Ark. and have the following children: -

- 1 — John Josephus Izard — b-Nov. 17th, 1881 married April 1911 Adell Cory. They reside at Van Buren Ark.
- 2 — Mark Whitaker Izard — b-Aug. 5th, 1884 married 1909 Lydia Carolina Smith.
- 3 — Letha Cotten Izard — Hot Springs Ark.

- 12 - Robert Cotten⁵ (Jobe⁴ - John³ - John² - John¹). Son of Jobe Cotten (8) was born in the Scotland Neck of Halifax Co. N.C. and died in Tenn. Nov. 12th, 1836. He married Mary Norfleet Jeffreys a daughter of Simon Jeffreys and wife Sally (Norfleet?) who was born April 4th, 1791 and survived him many years dying July 30th, 1871. About 1823, Col. Robert as he was called, sold all his property in North Carolina and removed with his family to LaGrange Fayette Co. Tenn. His descendants are widely scattered throughout the south and west. The following lists had been furnished by his great granddaughter Mary Wright Cotten of Birmingham Ala. The children of Robert Cotten were: -

1 — Leonidas Cotten — see 15.

- 2 — Robert W. Cotten — b-Oct. 18th, 1819 d-May 24th, 1839.
- 3 — James Wilson Cotten — b-Oct. 24th, 1821 d-Aug. 9th, 1828.
- 4 — John Henry Cotten — b-Feb. 26th, 1824 d-Sept. 13th, 1838.
- 5 — Mary Eliza Cotten — b-March 30th, 1826. Married John Mercer Wright and died June 24th, 1877. no issue.
- 6 — Sally Ann Cotten — b-July 31st, 1828 d-June 24th, 1877. Married William C. Smith and had children A-Ernest, B-Selwyn, C-Edwin.
- 7 — Edwin Hamilton Cotten — see 13.
- 8 — Norfleet Hill Cotten — see 14.

13 - Edwin Hamilton Cotten⁶ (Robert⁵- Jobe⁴- John³- John²- John¹). Son of Robert Cotten (12) b-Aug. 4th, 1831. Married 1st June 23rd, 1853 Fannie M. Logwood. Married 2d. Elizabeth Gloster. Children by first wife: -

- 1 — Walter E. Cotten — of Pine Bluff Ark.
- 2 — Henry Cotten — married ?? and has children — Kittie, Elmer and Clarence Cotten of Balisville Ark.

By his second wife Mr. Cotten had: -

- 1 — Arthur Cotten — dead.
- 2 — Bessie Cotten — dead.
- 3 — Pearl Cotten — dead.
- 4 — Mary Cotten — Sheffield Ala.
- 5 — Hubert Cotten — San Francisco, Cal.

14 - Norfleet Hill Cotten⁶ (Robert⁵- Jobe⁴- John³- John²- John¹). Son of Robert Cotten (12) was b-July 21st, 1833 d-Feb. 15th, 1871. He married Feb. 20th, 1861 Fannie E. Black. She died Nov. 23rd, 1899. Children: -

- 1 — Ida Norfleet Cotten — b-Jan. 5th, 1862 married 1879 Thomas M. Swift.
- 2 — John Mercer Cotten — b-April 29th, 1863 d-Oct. 25th, 1901.
- 3 — Edwin Leonidas Cotten — b-Feb. 27th, 1865 d-May 14th, 1891.
- 4 — Lena Cotten — b-Dec. 29th, 1867 married 1891 Alpheus T. Blaine. Has children.

15 - Leonidas Cotten⁶ (Robert⁵- Jobe⁴- John³- John²- John¹). Eldest son of Robert Cotten (12) was b-Dec. 21st, 1817 and died in Tenn. Jan. 4th, 1847. He married Feb. 1st, 1838 Sarah Eliza Wright a sister of John Mercer Wright who married Mary Eliza Cotten. (see 12). The Wrights are also of North Carolina ancestry and like the Cottens emigrated to Tenn. By this marriage there were four children as follows: -

- 1 — Alice London Cotten — see 16.
- 2 — Robert Cotten — see 17.
- 3 — John Mercer Cotten — see 18.
- 4 — Leonidas Cotten — see 19.

16 - Alice London Cotten⁷ (Leonidas⁶- Robert⁵- Jobe⁴- John³- John²- John¹). b-Nov. 10th, 1838. d-Oct. 25th, 1897. She married William Alexan-

der Houston and had children as follows: -

- 1 — Mary Houston — died young.
- 2 — Robert Houston — died unmarried.
- 3 — Sophy Houston — married Marion E. Seabrook and has son Marion E. Seabrook Jr.
- 4 — Anna May Houston — married John Henry McWilliams and has children (1920) Houston and Anna May McWilliams.
- 5 — Harry Gray Houston.
- 6 — Aalice Houston — married Paul Freeman and has children (1920) a-Corrine, b-Myra, c-Alice, d-Eva, e-Ethel, f-William who died young.

17 - Robert Cotten⁷ (Leonidas⁶ - Robert⁵ - Jobe⁴ - John³ - John² - John¹). Eldest son of Leonidas (15) b-Aug. 24th, 1840 d-in 1901. Married Dec. 1869 Lida Davenport (d-Dec. 1898). Children: -

- 1 — Ernest Cotten — d-young.
- 2 — Alice Cotten.
- 3 — Sarah Eliza Cotten — married Robert M. Brown and has children.
(a) Hardy Brown b-Oct. 27th, 1899. (b) Percy Rivers Brown b-June 26th, 1902. (c) Ernest Cotten Brown b-April 1st, 1906. died Nov. 1908.
- 4 — Leonidas Cotten — married Maud Nutt 1903. Children: -
(a) Mabel Lee Cotten b-April 16th, 1904. (b) Alice Mildred Cotten b-Feb. 3rd, 1908. (c) Lee Cotten b-June 20th, 1909. (d) Robert Davenport Cotten b-Oct. 8th, 1911.
- 5 — Claud Davenport Cotten — married (1911) Elizabeth Randall of Baltimore Md.
- 6 — Clara Homes Cotten — married Edward Trent Douglass. Children: -
a - Edward Trent Douglass Jr. b-Feb. 18th, 1906.
b - Robert Cotten Douglass b-Oct. 11th, 1907.
c - Susan Douglass b-Nov. 11th, 1911.
- 7 — Aileen Cotten — married Oscar Lee Stephenson. Children: -
a - Oscar Lee Stephenson Jr. died young.
b - Aileen Cotten Stephenson b-July 8th, 1902.
c - Lida Stephenson b-April 27th, 1905.
d - Ruth Stephenson b-Aug. 11th, 1909.
- 8 — Robert Ewing Cotten — married (1907) Carolina Chisholm and has one child (1920) Caroline Cotten b-March 31st, 1910.

18 - John Mercer Cotten⁷ (Leonidas⁶ - Robert⁵ - Jobe⁴ - John³ - John² - John¹). Son of Leonidas Cotten (15) was b-Feb. 2st [sic], 1842. Married Saily Sneed Green Feb. 16th, 1870 and had children: -

- 1 — William Mercer Cotten — dead.
- 2 — Charlotte Fleming Cotten — dead.
- 3 — Mary Wright Cotten — Birmingham Ala.
- 4 — John Mercer Cotten — dead.
- 5 — Arthue Lee Cotten.

19 - Leonidas Cotten⁷ (Leonidas⁶ - Robert⁵ - Jobe⁴ - John³ - John² - John¹). Was youngest son of Leonidas Cotten (15). He was b-May 8th, 1844 and d-1900. Married first Anna Wright a famous beauty and of the same family as John Mercer Wright (see 12 and 15). Secondly he married Jennie Madden and had one son - 1 - Shepard Marrast Cotten b-1888. By his first wife he had: -

- 1 - Ashbel Cotten - married and living in Tex.
- 2 - Benjamin Wright Cotten - married and living in Fla.
- 3 - Anna Wright Cotten - married Edwin R. Williams of Fernandeno Fla. Now living in Jacksonville Fla. They have children: -
(a) Anna. (b) Susan. (c) Edwin. (d) Ashbel.
- 4 - George R.F. Cotten - married first Mary Huddleston and had one child. Married secondly and resides in Philadelphia.
- 5 - Rainsford Fairbanks Cotten Jr. - married July 1927 Augusta Robertson of Fayette Ala. Reside Greensboro N.C.

20 - Whitmel Cotten⁵ (Jobe⁴ - John³ - John² - John¹). Eldest son of Jobe Cotten (8). He was b-in the Scotland Neck of Halifax Co. N.C. 1772 and died there March 1831. He was a large slave owner and prosperous planter. He married Oct. 24th, 1811 Mary Foreman of Halifax Co. a considerable heiress and left children as follows: -

- 1 - Benjamin Whitmel Cotten - see 21.
- 2 - Mary Cotten - married James Peebles of Halifax Co. and died in 1875 leaving sons Wesley and Andrew Peebles and daughter Virginia Peebles who married Morton L. Venerable and had daughter Hattie Peebles.
- 3 - William H. Cotten - died young.
- 4 - Samuel Cotten - died young.
- 5 - Emely A. Cotten - married Oct. 1834 William B. Dickson. They removed to Fla. and had at least one son - James Whitmel Dickson

Emely A. Cotten married Oct. 1834 William B. Dickson and had children: -

- 1 - James Whitmel Dickson - married ? and died in Fla. leaving children: (a) Evie. (b) Mamie (dead). (c) James Whitmel Dickson married Mary Ann Gray of Fla.
- 2 - Mary Martilda Dickson - married William Harvey and left children: (a) Virginia (b) Walter. (c) Charles (dead) (d) Edward. (e) Susan. (f) Lena. (g) Mary (dead). (h) Willie (dead).
- 3 - Georgia Dickson married 1st Mr. Applewhite. and had children: - (a) Bettie. (b) Bartow. Married 2d. Whitmel Kimbell, children: - (a) Jackson. (b) Johnnie. (c) Susie. (d) Robert Lee (dead).
- 4 - William Foreman Dickson - now living (1927) with his

fourth wife. 1st wife Sallie Powell left one son Willie. 2d. wife Harriett Dozier, children (a) Maud (dead). (b) Edward. (c) Ernest. (d) Mary Foreman. (e) Frankie (dead). (f) Walter. (g) Nicholas (dead). 3rd wife Mollie Johnson, children (a) Foreman. (b) Bryant, who died in France. (c) Edel. 4th wife Mrs. Mollie Rodgers. No children.

- 5 — Marmaduke Dickson — married Hattie Cook, children: -
(a) Willie (dead). (b) May. (c) Emily (dead). (d) James. (e) Robert. (f) Anna (dead). (g) Bell Cotten. (h) Maggie. (i) Jennie. (j) Mittie. (k) Hall.
- 6 — Edward Hall Dickson — went to Tex. and married there, died and left one child a girl.
- 7 — Susan Smith Dickson — married 1st George Bevis. 2d. John W. Bevis. (They were brothers.) Left children: -
(a) George. (b) Paul. (c) Lottie. (d) Susie.
- 8 — Emely Bell Dickson — married Frank Bevis, children: -
(a) Minnie L. married Mr. Gillis of Bossom Fla. no children. (b) Robert. (c) Lucius. (d) Pearl. (e) Henry. (f) Whitmel. (g) William Franklin. All married and reside in Fla.

(above from a letter from Mrs. Minnie L. Gillis of Bascom Fla.)

21 - Benjamin Whitmel Cotten⁶ (Whitmel⁵ - Jobe⁴ - John³ - John² - John¹). Was the only son of Whitmel Cotten (20) to reach maturity. He was b-Halifax Co. N.C. 1812 and d-Dec. 1880. He inherited the plantation near Scotland Neck that came down from his great grandfather John Cotten (3) and resided there during his lifetime. He married Martha E. Lawrence a daughter of Duke Lawrence of Halifax Co. and a granddaughter of Jesse Powell (see). She died in Dec. 1889. Children: -

- 1 — Thomas Cotten — d-Jan. 1920 married, no children.
- 2 — Pattie Cotten — b-1848, living (1921) at Suffolk Va. never married.
- 3 — Whitmel Lawrence Cotten — see 22.
- 4 — Joseph Cotten — see 23.
- 5 — James Wilson Cotten — see 24.
- 6 — Bettie L. Cotten — married Z.T. Vinsent and has dr. children. Alice.
- 7 — Susie Cotten — married H.C. Walker, no children.
- 8 — Nannie Cotten — died young.
- 9 — Mary Cotten — died when she was seventeen.
- 10 — Sarah Cotten — died young.

22. Whitmel Lawrence Cotten⁷ (Benjamin Whitmel⁶ - Whitmel⁵ - Jobe⁴ - John³ - John² - John¹). Son of Benjamin Whitmel Cotten (21). Married Jan 20th, 1866 Emma S. Bryan of Halifax Co. He served in the Confederate Army Co. G. 41st. N.C. Cav. and after the war was a planter in Halifax Coun-

ty. He died in 1915. Children: -

1 — Charles M. Cotten — married Lilla Cherry and has children

- a - Cecil Cotten.
- b - Earl Cotten.
- c - Charles Cotten.
- d - Hazel Cotten.
- e - Joseph Cotten.
- f - Walter Cotten.

2 — J. Walter Cotten — married Mattie M. Sheveatt and is living in South Carolina. Children: -

- a - Walter Royal Cotten.
- b - Randolph Cotten.
- c - Whitmel Cotten.
- d - Lawrence Cotten.
- e - Marion Cotten.

3 — Wayland Cotten — unmarried.

4 — Mary Foreman Cotten — married Joseph Barnes.

23 - Joseph Cotten⁷ (Benjamin Whitmel⁶ - Whitmel⁵ - Jobe⁴ - John³ - John² - John¹). Was born in 1845 and died May 1877. He studied medicine at the University of North Carolina, served in the Confederate Army and after the war practiced medicine in Scotland Neck. He married Nannie B. Paull and died in May 1877 leaving four daughters all of whom are married.

24 - James Wilson Cotten⁷ (Benjamin Whitmel⁶ - Whitmel⁵ - Jobe⁴ - John³ - John² - John¹). Was born in Halifax Co. N.C. Feb. 1850. Married Lula Morresett and is now (1921) living in Scotland Neck. He has two children.

- 1 — Joseph Whitmel Cotten — married Miss Clive Andrews, dr. G. W. Andrews and Jinnie Aldrooks, and has at least one son.
- 2 — Lillian Cotten — unmarried.

Chapter 4

Descendants of John Cotten through his son Samuel "The Cottens of Samuel"

25 - Samuel Cotten² (John¹). Was the second son of John Cotten and wife Martha Godwin. He was born in Virginia bout 1690 and died in Northampton Co., N.C. in 1774, having lived to a greater age than perhaps any of the children of John Cotten.

He came to North Carolina in 1717 and secured a grant of land in what is now Northampton Co. He was Captain of a Company of Northampton Co. Guards in 1748 and in the same Company were his brothers Arthur and Thomas who were Lieutenant and Ensign respectively. Samuel Cotten owned plantations in both Northampton and Bertie Cos. and during his long life was a resident of both counties. He was married twice, but the name of his first wife is unknown. His second wife was Lydia Ewell divorced wife of Solomon Ewell of Northampton Co. who survived him and of whom he speaks very tenderly in his will.

Samuel Cotten died in 1774 and mentions in his will besides his Manor Plantation, fourteen negroes by name, a large number of horses, cows, ewes, lambs, oval tables and "Delph that stands in by "Bo-Fatt". His second wife died in 1783. Three children by his first wife as follows: -

- 1 — John Cotten — of whom no further record. It is evident from the will of Samuel Cotten that he was not on good terms with his son John, though he left him one negro man named "Jack" with the proviso that John should come for him himself. This indicates that John was living at that time, but no record has been found concerning him or any descendants.
- 2 — A daughter whose name has been lost but who was married to Gardner.
- 3 — Samuel Cotten — for whom see 26.

Children by his second wife Mrs. Lydia Ewell were: -

- 1 — Elizabeth Cotten — married Aug. 1st, 1776 Frederick Ruffin and had sons James and Frederick Ruffin. Mr. Ruffin died prior to 1788 and his widow married Watson Rutland of Bertie Co. He died in 1819. There was at least one child by this latter marriage Elizabeth Rutland underage in 1819.
- 2 — Sallie Cotten died 1789 unmarried. Will in Northampton Co.
- 3 — Roderick Cotten — for whom see 41.

26 - Samuel Cotten³ (Samuel² - John¹). Was evidently quite an elderly man when his father died in 1774. The dates of his birth and death are unknown but he was living in 1790. He moved to Edgecombe Co. with his family about 1773 and leased a plantation from Thomas Williams on the north side of Tar River. In 1786 he bought a plantation from William Bell on the north side of Swiff /sic/ Creek. His name appears on the census of 1790 his family at that time consisting of seven sons and a daughter. Samuel Cotten left no will but by a deed of gift dated July 19th, 1787 he divided most of his property among his children who are named in that instrument. His wife Elizabeth ? was at that time evidently dead. Children: -

- 1 - Edward Cotten - no record, but is thought to have married and to have left at least one son Edward S. Cotten who married in 1847 Penelopy Hawkins daughter of Elsy Hawkins of Edgecombe Co. No record of descendants.
- 2 - Thomas Cotten - married Mary Coleman a daughter of Stephen Coleman of Edgecombe Co. No further record.
- 3 - Willie Cotten - no record. He served in the Edgecombe Company 3rd. Reg. N.C. Troops that were called for service during the war of 1812 and was stationed at Norfolk Va. for some time. He seems to have gone to Cumberland Co. N.C. after the war and was living there in 1818.
- 4 - Nancy Cotten - no record.
- 5 - Micajah Thomas Cotten - no record of marriage or death, but from the Federal Census of 1810 he was living in Warren Co. N. C. with wife, daughter and six slaves. His daughter at that time (1810) being under ten years of age.
- 6 - Solomon Cotten - see 27.
- 7 - Roderick Cotten - see 28.
- 8 - Alexander Cotten - see 35.

27 - Solomon Cotten⁴ (Samuel³ - Samuel² - John¹). Married Prescella Hawkins a daughter of Col. John Hawkins of Warren Co. and his wife Sallie Macon. Col. John Hawkins was eldest son of Col. Philemon Hawkins Sr. and wife Della Martin who were the first of an extensive family in Warren Co. Sallie Macon was a daughter of Gideon Macon and wife Precilla _____ and a sister of Nathaniel Macon who for many years was North Carolina's leading statesman. Solomon Cotten resided on a plantation on Roanoke River in Warren Co. which is still known as the Cotten Place and lately owned by J. F. and T. D. Rodwell. Only one child is known to have been of this marriage. That is: -

- 1 - Edward R. Cotten - was born about 1800 and died in 1877. "Uncle Ned" Cotten as he was known to the people of Warren Co. is said by some to have been well off and to have attended Princeton College. This can not be verified however and it is certain if he had any means it disappeared early in his life.

He studied law under Mr. William Eaton of Warrenton but

was never licensed and never during his entire life had he any occupation or means of support. He spent his entire life visiting among his friends and relatives and seems to have adopted very early in life this very novel way of securing a livelihood. He became and remained a professional visitor by which means he continued to live throughout his very long life.

These visits often extended into months and even years among favored ones. For about forty years he lived largely as a guest at the home of Mr. William K. Kerney a prominent citizen of Warren Co. After Mr. Kerney's death he visited extensively from house to house, never long satisfied at any place, though Mr. P.G. Alston and others offered him a home prompted solely by fondness for the old man.

Such an existence was perhaps only possible under conditions as then existing in the South. He is described as a tall, very handsome man, very erect and muscular. He was exceedingly fond of social intercourse, was musical and possessed very lively and fascinating conversational powers. It was his conversational powers perhaps as well as his finished manners and amiability that caused him to always be a welcome guest wherever he went. His popularity never waned and many people still living recall him with pleasure and real affection.

In 1840 he published a "Life of Nathaniel Macon" who was his great uncle. This little volume of 270 pages was published by Lucas & Deaver of Baltimore and was financed by Mr. Kerney. It is a curious, disconnected work, almost worthless as a life of Mr. Macon and taken up mostly by Mr. Cotten's own philosophy and views of life.

Mr. Cotten never married and died from the effects of a fall on the frozen ground near Littleton Halifax Co. during the winter of 1877. It is related that "Uncle Ned" was on his way to visit some friends at the time and was carrying his "fiddle" and portmanteau. On the way, it being night and the ground frozen and very slippery he fell and broke a hip. Some negroes found him there in the road in this condition and proposed to carry him to a house nearby where two old maiden ladies, the Misses Moseley, lived. The Misses Moseley were famous in that neighborhood for gossip and promiscuous talking. Uncle Ned positively refused to be taken there, saying that he preferred to die there on the ground rather than be talked to death by these two old ladies. So he died as he wished.

28 - Roderick Cotten⁴ (Samuel³ - Samuel² - John¹). Son of Samuel Cotten (26) was born March 16th, 1786 and died in Edgecombe Co. in 1814. He married Aug. 27th, 1807 Mary (was a widow for 52 years and stone blind for 45 years) Topping Braswell of Edgecombe Co. b-Nov. 26th, 1786. Topping

Cotten as she was always called survived her husband many years and died about 1866?. Roderick Cotten left three children all of whom have descendants living.

- 1 — Elizabeth Cotten — b-Oct. 10th, 1808. Married Oct. 9th, 1828 Drury King of Edgecombe Co. and left descendants.
- 2 — John Lewellyn Cotten — see 29. b-May 6th, 1810.
- 3 — Edward Samuel Cotten — b-Jan. 15th, 1812, who married a Miss Hawkins of Edgecombe Co. and has descendants living.
- 4 — Peggy Ann Cotten — b-Jan. 7th, 1814. d-young.

29 - John Lewellyn Cotten⁵ (Roderick⁴ - Samuel³ - Samuel² - John¹). Was born May 6th, 1810 near Whitakers or Whitakers Turnout as it was universally called in those days and died in Edgecombe Co. in 1849. Married first 1st Emmy Savage of Halifax Co. One son Frederick died young. He married in 1838 Nancy Bell Pennine Tart Johnson a daughter of Aaron Johnston a planter of Edgecombe Co. and his first wife a Miss Ingraham of South Carolina. There were seven children by this marriage and after Mr. Cotten's death his widow married William H. Newsom of Edgecombe Co. by whom she had one daughter Elen Newsom who married George Gambel also of Edgecombe Co.

- 1 — Robert Randolph Cotten — see 30.
- 2 — Mary Eliza Cotten — see 31.
- 3 — Della Ann Cotten — see 32.
- 4 — Cornelia Cotten — died young.
- 5 — Elizabeth Cotten — see 33.
- 6 — John Milton Cotten — see 34.
- 7 — Jane Cotten — who married Silas Weeks of Edgecombe Co. and had sons - Walter, Robert Cotten, and James all of whom died young and Silas Weeks who resides at Portsmouth Va.

30 - Robert Randolph Cotten⁶ (John⁵ - Roderick⁴ - Samuel³ - Samuel² - John¹). Was born on his father's farm near Whitakers, Edgecombe Co. June 20th, 1839. He served throughout the Civil War as a member of Co. G. 41st. N.C. Cav. After the war he located in Tarboro as a merchant and while there he purchased the Plantations Southwood and Cottendale in Pitt Co. where he afterwards resided and where his family were raised. In 1869 he moved his business to Wilson N.C. where he was engaged for a number of years in the mercantile business with a branch business established at Falkland in Pitt Co. In 1878 he removed his family to Falkland and the following year established his family first at Southwood and later at Cottendale where he has ever since resided. At the same time he established his business at Centre Bluff on Tar River where he conducted a mercantile business in connection with his plantations for twenty-five years. In 1900 he moved his business back from the river to a place and Post Office that he established named Bruce, where it still continues (1927).

He was for a number of years a director of the State Penitentiary and

of the State Hospital for the Insane at Raleigh. For several years he was Chairman of the Pitt Co. Inferior Court and has been for many years a member of the State Democratic Executive Committee. He represented Pitt Co. in the legislature (House) in 1908 and in the Senate in 1910. Died Cottendale Aug. 14th, 1928.

He married March 14th, 1866 at Murfreesboro N.C. Sallie Swepson Sims Southall, born in Amelia Co. Va. June 13th, 1846. She was a daughter of Thomas James Southall and his first wife Susannah Sims. Thomas J. Southall was a son of James Southall and wife Elizabeth Parker daughter of Thomas Parker of Gates Co. N.C. James Southall was a brother of Daniel Southall the Merchant-Minister of Murfreesboro N.C. Susannah Sims was a daughter of Rev. Richard Swepson Sims and Rebecca Walton. d-May 4th, 1929.

There were nine children born to the marriage of R.R. Cotten and Sallie Southall as follows: -

- 1 — Agnes Le Roy Cotten Cotten — b-Tarboro N.C. March 7th, 1867 married at Cottendale Jan. 1891 Julian B. Timberlake Jr. of Raleigh N.C. Children: -
 - a - Julian B. Timberlake. graduated U.S.N. Academy 1913. married Charlotte Jordan and has son.
 - b - Agnes Cotten Timberlake married Lon Newton. Died at Cottendale June 22, 1928.
- 2 — Robert Randolph Cotten Jr. — drowned in Tar River when fifteen years of age.
- 3 — Frederick Cotten — died young.
- 4 — Alla Cotten — died young.
- 5 — Bruce Cotten — b-Wilson N.C. March 3rd, 1873 married Aug. 4th, 1910 Mrs. Edyth (Johns) Tyson of Baltimore.
- 6 — Lyman Atkinson Cotten — b-Wilson N.C. Dec. 18th, 1874. Graduated U.S.N. Academy 1898. Married Elizabeth B. Henderson. Died at Norfolk Va. Jan. 12th, 1926 leaving two sons: (a) Lyman A. Cotten (b) John Henderson Cotten.
- 7 — Sallie Drongoole Cotten — b-Wilson, N.C. July 4th, 1876 married Russell B. Wiggin of Boston Mass.
- 8 — Preston Sims Cotten — b-Falkland N.C. married Willa Strange (June 26th, 1915) of Danville Va. and has son Robert Randolph Cotten.
- 9 — Elba Brown Cotten — b-Cottendale married Douglas B. Wesson of Springfield Mass and has four children.

31 - Mary Eliza Cotten⁶ (John L.⁵ - Roderick⁴ - Samuel³ - Samuel² - John¹). Was b-in Edgecombe Co. N.C. and married in 1856 Lawrance Fountain of Edgecombe Co. and had ten children as follows: -

- 1 — Ardella Fountain — married 1st Frank Harper.
- 2 — Theodore Fountain — married Margaret Leggett.
- 3 — Jefferson L. Fountain — married Mary King of Pitt Co. daughter of Captain John King and
- 4 — Mary Fountain — married _____ Ellsworth.

- 5 — Ellen Fountain — married John Mayo.
- 6 — LaFayette Fountain — married Susan Lewis.
- 7 — Laurance Fountain — married Sally Barnes.
- 8 — Allice Fountain — married _____ Peacock.
- 9 — William Fountain — married Nora Peacock.
- 10 — Florance Fountain — married John Peel.

32 - Della Ann Cotten⁶ (John L.⁵ - Roderick⁴ - Samuel³ - Samuel² - John¹). b-Edgecombe Co. N.C. Married Andrew Jackson Moore and had children: -

- 1 — Cornelia Moore — married Edward Carman.
- 2 — Alice Moore — married 1st. Sylvester Procter. 2d. Theodore Bryan.
- 3 — John Robert Moore — married Miss Blaker.
- 4 — William Henry Moore — married Susan Mayo daughter of Dr. P. G. Mayo of Falkland, N.C. and his wife Susan Savage.
- 5 — Frederick Moore — married Miss Riddick of Virginia.
- 6 — Della Elizabeth Moore — married William Williams.

33 - Elizabeth Cotten⁶ (John L.⁵ - Roderick⁴ - Samuel³ - Samuel² - John¹). Born in Edgecombe Co. N.C. Married Calvig ? Skinner of Halifax Co. N.C. and had children: -

- 1 — Mary Skinner — married Mr. Eure.
- 2 — Alice Skinner — married Mr. Vick.
- 3 — George Skinner.
- 4 — Walter Skinner.
- 5 — Charles Skinner.
- 6 — R.E. Lee Skinner — married and d-1927 leaving a son O.L. Skinner.

34 - John Milton Cotten⁶ (John L.⁵ - Roderick⁴ - Samuel³ - Samuel² - John¹). Born in Edgecombe Co. N.C. Married 1st Alvania Watson of Halifax Co. N.C. Married 2d. Fannie Thomas of Beauford Co. N.C. Children by first wife: -

- 1 — Nancy Cotten — married Thomas Allgood of Beaufort Co.
- 2 — Roderick L. Cotten — married Margarette ?
- 3 — Alvanier Cotten — married Wayland Upchurch of Wake Co.
- 4 — Kate Conner Cotten — married Henry Upchurch of Wake Co.
- 5 — Charles Cotten.

There was one child by the second marriage: -

- 1 — Leonard Cotten — married and lives in Granville Co.

35 - Alexander Cotten⁴ (Samuel³ - Samuel² - John¹). Was a son of Samuel Cotten (26) and wife Elizabeth. He is thought to have been born in Edgecombe Co. He served as a Sargeant in the 4th. Co. 3rd. Regiment N. C. Troops during the war of 1812 and was for some time stationed at Norfolk, Va. He died in 1923 his will being on record in Edgecombe Co. Mr. Cotten was a planter and is said to have been the first to import thoroughbred

horses into Edgecombe Co. He married 1st. Temperance Staton a daughter of Arthur Staton of Edgecombe Co. and had one son.

1 — Arthur Staton Cotten — for whom see 36.

He married 2d. Mary Cotten a daughter of William Cotten (see 47-5) and had one daughter: -

1 — Mary Elizabeth Cotten — who married Henry Downing of Washington Co. N.C. and left descendants.

36 - Arthur Staton Cotten⁵ (Alexander⁴ - Samuel³ - Samuel² - John¹). Was born in Edgecombe Co. N.C. Jan 26th, 1804 and died at Hamilton in Martin Co. N.C. in 1861. He married May 8th, 1827 Louisa C. Mayo (b-1812, d-1894) a daughter of John W. Mayo of Martin Co. and wife Nancy Southland Dale of Penn. See-Will A.S. Cotten. John W. Mayo was a son of Col. Nathan Mayo a leading citizen of Edgecombe and Martin Cos. Col. Mayo was almost continuously a member of the Legislature from either Martin or Edgecombe Co. from 1778 to 1798. He was also a member of the Convention at Hillsboro in 1788 and Fayetteville in 1798.

1) — Godwin and Gimison Cotten, twins — these boys were drowned
2) — in Coneto Creek when young men about fifteen years of age, through the overturning of a buggy in which they were driving.

3) — M. Augustus Cotten — for whom see 37.

4) — George Adolphus Cotten — for whom see 38

Twins and widely known as Gus and Dolph Cotten.

5 — Virginia Louisa Cotten — for whom see 39.

6 — Frederick Cotten — unmarried and still living in N.C. at an advanced age.

37 - M. Augustus Cotten⁶ (Arthur S.⁵ - Alexander⁴ - Samuel³ - Samuel² - John¹). Was b-in 1841 and died in Baltimore Md. 1913. He served with much gallantry in the Confederate Army as a Corporal in the Bethal Regiment and as a Lieut. in the 17th. Reg. N.C. Troops. After the war he located in Baltimore where he continued to live until his death. He married Lucy Boyle of Scotland Neck N.C. who survived him and had issue: -

1 — Louise Cotten — married William E. Stirling of Baltimore. Mr. Stirling died in Feb. 1921. No children.

2 — Estelle Cotten — married Rev. Henry Harding son of Rev. Nathaniel Harding of N.C. and died March 1922. There are several children.

3 — M. Augustus Cotten Jr. — an exceptionally promising young man who died in Wilmington Del. in 1912 when about 25 years of age.

38 - George Adolphus Cotten⁶ (Arthur S.⁵ - Alexander⁴ - Samuel³ - Samuel² - John¹). Born in N.C. in 1841 and died in Baltimore Md. March 1920. Like his twin brother he served most gallantly in the Confederate Army and came to Baltimore to live after the war. He married 1st. Mary Della Biggs a daughter of Judge Asa Biggs (for whom see 72). He married secondly Mrs.

_____ of Baltimore. His two children are by his first wife.

1 — Henry Andrews Cotten — see 40.

2 — Lucy Cotten — married _____ and has children.

39 - Virginia Louisa Cotten⁶ (Arthur⁵ - Alexander⁴ - Samuel³ - Samuel² - John¹). Married June 7th, 1870 Wilson Gray Lamb son of Wilson Gray Lamb and his wife Eliza Williams. Col. Lamb was a cultivated gentleman and a man of merit. He had a host of friends in North Carolina and in Baltimore where he was extensively known through his connection with Daniel Miller & Co. He died in Feb. 1922 and his wife died in 1913. They always lived in Williamston N.C. Children: -

1 — John Cotten Lamb — married Francis F. MacRea a daughter of Judge James C. MacRea of Fayetteville N.C. Resides in Baltimore and has large family.

2 — Virginia Cotten Lamb — married Frederick F. Bullock.

3 — Della Cotten Lamb — married Howard Herrick and died leaving two children.

4 — Eliza Williams Lamb — married Dr. Charles H.C. Mills.

5 — Wilson Gray Lamb — unmarried (1926).

6 — Luke Lamb — married _____ and has children.

7 — Louisa Mayo Lamb — unmarried.

8 — Annie Staton Lamb — unmarried.

40 - Henry Andrews Cotten⁷ (George Adolphus⁶ - Arthur⁵ - Alexander⁴ - Samuel³ - Samuel² - John¹). b-Norfolk Va. May 18th, 1876. Married Sept. 26th, 1903 to Alice Della Keys.

41 - Roderick Cotten³ (Samuel² - John¹). Was a son of Samuel Cotten and his second wife Mrs. Lydia Ewell. He was born at Brittens Cross Roads in Bertie Co. (now Roxabell) in 1764 and died in Chatham Co. July 6th, 1827. In 1794 he purchased a large estate from his cousin James Cotten (3-2) located in Chatham Co. N.C. where he made his home and continued to reside until his death. He became a prominent and wealthy citizen of Chatham Co. and was in the State Senate 1809-1811. He married Ann Carney a daughter of Gen. Richard Carney one of the largest slave owners of Halifax Co. She died July 31st, 1846 at the advanced age of 82. There were two sons by this marriage: -

1 — Richard Carney Cotten — see 42.

2 — Stephen Wright Cotten — see 44.

42 - Richard Carney Cotten⁴ (Roderick³ - Samuel² - John¹). Was b-in Northampton Co. N.C. 1793 and died in Chatham Co. N.C. Jan. 27th, 1866. He was Captain of the 5th. Co. N.C. Troops during the war of 1812 at the age of nineteen. He was always interested in military matters, was the first Adjutant General of the State of North Carolina and during the Civil War was Captain of E Co. 44th Regiment and Lieut. Col. of the same regiment until forced to resign by old age, he being in 1862 sixty-nine years old. He was almost constantly in the legislature from his county from 1816

until 1855. In 1817 he married May 18th, 1815 /sic/ Margarett Williams Alston a daughter of Joseph John Alston widely known as Chatham Jack. She was b-Nov. 26th, 1795. Her mother was Martha Kearney. Children: -

- 1 — Emily Alston Cotten — b-1818, married Dec. 31st, 1835 Joseph Crump and raised a family of three children.
 - a - Joseph Crump — Captain during the Civil War.
 - b - Pattie Crump — married H.C. Long of Salisbury.
 - c - Ora Crump — married James Williams of Fayetteville.
- 2 — Elizabeth Kearney Cotten — married Thomas B. Long a son of Alexander Long of Salisbury and had son R.A. Long of Asheville, N.C.
- 3 — Joseph Alston Cotten — b-1822 died young.
- 4 — John Alston Cotten — b-1826. He graduated in medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, but died young and without issue.
- 5 — Richard Carney Cotten 2d. — see 43.

"AN OLD VETERAN IN ARMS. — We had the pleasure of a visit a day or two since from Gen. R.C. Cotten, of Chatham, who is in camp near this place, with 118 men. General, now Captain Cotten, is in his 68th year, but he is capable of enduring as much fatigue as most men at 30 or 40. Captain Cotten commanded a company from Chatham at Norfolk, in the war of 1812. His patriotism, and his sacrifices for his country at his advanced age, are worthy of all commendations. The name of his company is the Turkellpaws, and his officers are Lieutenants Stedman, Cotten, and Phillips. Capt. Cotten has six brothers, an only son, two only grandsons, one son-in-law, and one who married one of his granddaughters, in the service. The Cotten family is, therefore, doing more than its duty in this war."

N.C. Standard

Wed. March 26th, 1862

Richard Carney Cotten 2d.⁵ (Richard Carney⁴ - Roderick³ - Samuel² - John¹).

Was born in Chatham Co. 1827 and died there in 1900. He was a prominent citizen of his section, served several years in the legislature and was for long, clerk of the Court for Chatham Co. He served as a Lieut. in Co. D. 61st Reg. N.C. Troops during the Civil War. He was captured at Morris Island S.C. in 1862 and confined at Johnston's Island for the remainder of the war. He married in 1850 Addie Poe daughter of Houston Poe and list children as follows: -

- 1 — Frederick Cotten — died without issue.
- 2 — Paul Cotten — died young.
- 3 — Ella Cotten — married M.T. Williams of Pittsboro N.C. and has children: -
 - a - Frederick Cotten Williams.

b - Amie Alston Williams - married T.K. Duncan of Pittsboro.

c - Elsie Williams - unmarried.

44 - Stephen Wright Cotten⁴ - (Roderick³ - Samuel² - John¹). Was youngest son of Roderick Cotten (41). He was born in Chatham Co. N.C. Aug. 22d, 1804 and died there in 1877. He was a well-known physician of Chatham Co. He married in 1851 Cornelia B. Northam daughter of Russell Northam of Lewis Co. N.Y. who survived him many years and died in Winston-Salem N.C. in 1909. There was only child by this marriage.

1 - Roderick Cotten - see 45.

45 - Roderick Cotten⁵ (Stephen W.⁴ - Roderick³ - Samuel² - John¹). Was born in Chatham Co. N.C. Nov. 15th, 1851 and died in Winston Salem N.C. Sept. 25th, 1895. Like his father and grandfather he was a well-known citizen of Chatham Co. About 1880 he became a citizen of Winston-Salem where he was engaged in the Tobacco Manufacturing business. He married 1st. Ida Headen daughter of Aaron G. Headen of Chatham Co. She died in 1871 leaving two children: -

1 - Aaron Wright Cotten - died young.

2 - Maud Moore Cotten - married Frederick Bissinger of Winston-Salem and died Sept. 25th, 1895 without issue.

Mr. Cotten married secondly Margaret Lea, daughter of James Kerr Lea and wife Margaret Sergeant, who survives him and who is the mother of six children as follows: -

1 - Roderick Lea Cotten - b-1884.

2 - James Cotten - b-1886, living in Ala.

3 - Headen Cotten - b-1886, living in Col.

4 - Howard Lea Cotten - b-1893, living in Fla.

5 - Margaret Cotten - b-1887, unmarried.

6 - Eula Cotten - b-1890, married Dr. L.G. Coble of Greensboro N.C.

Chapter 5

Descendants of John Cotten through his son William "The Cottens of William"

William Cotten² (John¹). Third son of John Cotten (1) and wife Martha Godwin, was born in Virginia about 1700 and died in Northampton Co. N.C. between the years 1741 and 1753. He came to North Carolina when very young man and settled in what is now Northampton Co. He married about 1729 Mrs. Sarah Bridgers widow of William Bridgers of Northampton Co. and a daughter of John Dew Sr. of Bertie Co. So far as is known William Cotten left no will, but his wife left a very interesting will which is on record in the office of the Secretary of State Raleigh N.C. dated Dec. 7th, 1753.

This will mentions both her Bridgers and Cotten children and it is from this instrument that their names have been preserved. Her Bridgers children are mentioned in the following order which is thought to be the order of their birth. Sons - William Bridgers, Joseph Bridgers and John Bridgers. Daughters - Patience "ye wife of James Cotten" and Sarah "ye wife of Thomas Cotten". From this it appears that her two daughters had married younger brothers of her second husband William Cotten. Her Cotten children were: -

- 1 - Priscilla Cotten - married 1st. James Tart and had daughter Mary Tart who married John Cotten (3). Secondly she married Richard Wills and had son Richard Stark Wills b-March 15th, 1772 d-Dec:21st, 1817. He married Elizabeth Biggs Oct. 10th, 1802 and had son William Henry Wills who was born Aug. 4th, 1809 married Anna Maria Whitaker a daughter of Dr. Cary Whitaker of Halifax Co. and died July 1889 leaving a large family.

Diary of William Henry Wills commencing p.471 Vol 7 Southern Historical Asso. Publications.

BC

- 2 - Martha Cotten - married John Scott, no further record.
- 3 - Mary Cotten - no further record.
- 4 - Charles Cotten - died unmarried, will in Northampton Co. dated May 1st, 1763.
- 5 - Robert Cotten - married Oct. 17th, 1763 his cousin Abselle Cotten a daughter of Joseph Cotten (see) and had large family of whom no trace has been found, though it is felt that there must be some descendants from so large a family.

His name appears in the 1st. Federal Census of 1790. He

was then living in Halifax Co. and had family of four sons and two daughters with fifteen slaves. A Mr. Robert Cotten died in New Bern Nov. 5th, 1798 (see N.C.His.Review, Vol.IX, No.3-p-306).

6 — William Cotten — see 47.

47 - William Cotten³ (William² - John¹). Was son of William Cotten (46) and wife Sarah (Dew) Cotten. - He resided in Edgecombe Co. and his name appears in the first Federal Census of 1790 his family at that time consisting of four sons and four daughters. One daughter must have died young as no name of a fourth daughter has been preserved.

He married Elizabeth _____? whose name has been lost but who was living in 1818. William Cotten is said to have died in 1795..

1 — Frederick Cotten — b-1770, d-Jan.25th, 1815 unmarried & will in Edgecombe Co. dated Nov.17th, 1814. He was Sheriff of Edgecombe Co. in 1808.

2 — Randolph Cotten — b-1769, d-1849. Never married. For over fifty years he conducted a large and profitable mercantile business in Tarboro on the lot where the Town Hall now stands. For a long while his brother was associated with him in this business, the firm's name being R. & S.D.Cotten. He accumulated a considerable fortune which he divided among his relatives at his death, leaving a fund as well for aged slaves.

3 — Fanny Cotten — d-1818, unmarried. Will in Edgecombe Co.

4 — Elizabeth Cotten — see 55.

5 — Mary Cotten — married her cousin Alexander Cotten (35).

6 — Godwin Cotten — died in 1834 unmarried.

7 — Spencer Dew Cotten — see 48.

48 - Spencer Dew Cotten⁴ (William³ - William² - John¹). Planter and Merchant and second son of William Cotten (47) was b-1777 and died Aug.28th, 1837. Hot Springs Va. He was associated with his brother Randolph Cotten in business in Tarboro and shared with him in the prosperity and popularity of that firm. He married Nov.25th, 1808 Margaret Green Whitaker a dau. of Col. John Whitaker of Halifax and his wife Christion Benton. She was b-April 17th, 1792 and died Dec.6th, 1855 at Tallahassee Fla. They acquired large properties in Florida and sometimes resided there.

1 — William Cotten — b-1810, died young.

2 — Frederick Randolph Cotten — see 49.

3 — John Whitaker Cotten — see 50.

4 — Martha Eliza Whitaker Cotten — b-Feb.28th, 1814, d-June 26th 1835. Married Feb.23d, 1832 Noah Thompson of Edgecombe and Bertie Counties. Mr. Thompson died in Fla. 1854. There was only one child by this marriage: -

1 — Margaret Eliza Thompson — b-1834. She married 1854 J. John Williams of Edgecombe Co. He died in 1876. There was a large family from this marriage.

Frederick Randolph Cotten⁵ (Spencer D.⁴ - William³ - William² - John¹). Was born in Edgecombe Co. in 1820 and died in Fla. in 1879. He was a large plantation owner and just prior to the Civil War moved with his family to Tallahassee Fla. where he continued to live until his death. He married Oct. 7th, 1846 Elizabeth Whitaker Coffield daughter of Spear Coffield and wife Sallie Hunter. Spear Coffield was a son of David Coffield and wife Elizabeth Whitaker who was daughter of Col. John Whitaker of Halifax Co. Frederick Randolph Cotten was therefore a first cousin to his father-in-law, Spear Coffield.

There were four children by this marriage: -

- 1 - Margaret Whitaker Cotten - b-March 10th, 1845, unmarried.
- 2 - Spencer Dew Cotten - b-March 29th, 1859, died young.
- 3 - Elizabeth Coffield Cotten.
- 4 - Sarah Coffield Cotten - b-Oct. 10th, 1850, died March 2d, 1893. She was known as Sally Cotten, was widely known as a beauty and for her lovely traits of character. She married in 1877 Henry Elliott and left children

a - Edith Elliott.

b - Frederick Cotten Elliott.

John Whitaker Cotten⁵ (Spencer D.⁴ - William³ - William² - John¹). Second son of Spencer Dew Cotten (48) was a planter and capitalist and resided in Tarboro, Raleigh and in Fla. He was born in Tarboro Dec. 19th, 1811 and died in 1845 when only thirty-four years of age. He married in Dec. 1832 Laura Placidia Clark (b-1816, d-1864) a daughter of James West Clark and wife Arabella E. Toole who was a daughter of Henry Irvin Toole of Edgecombe Co. She was a sister of Gov. Henry Toole Clarke. There were four children by this marriage: -

- 1 - Margaret Eliza Cotten - see 51.
- 2 - Arabella Clark Cotten - see 52.
- 3 - Florida Call Cotten - see 53.
- 4 - John Whitaker Cotten - see 54.

Margaret Eliza Cotten⁶ (John W.⁵ - Spencer D.⁴ - William³ - William² - John¹). Was b-Nov. 13th, 1835 and died in 1895. She married Sept. 26th, 1855 Joseph A. Engelhard. Major Engelhard was a Mississippian by birth, graduated with first honors at the University of North Carolina and located for the practice of law at Tarboro. He served with quite exceptional gallantry in the Confederate Army and was a cultivated man of high attainments and merit. There were three children by this marriage.

- 1 - Placidia Engelhard - who married James Boylan of Raleigh.
- 2 - Edward Benson Engelhard - b-1856, d-1895.
- 3 - Rosabelle Engelhard - married Hal Worth.
- 4 - John Cotten Engelhard - married Margaret Hinsdale a daughter of Col. John Hinsdale of Raleigh, N.C.

52 - Arabella Clark Cotten⁶ (John W.⁵ - Spencer D.⁴ - William³ - William² - John¹). Was b-July 10th, 1839. Married in 1860 Judge William Deanes Barnes a native of Hertford Co. N.C. and son of Thomas Barnes and wife Sarah Deanes. He graduated at the University of North Carolina and studied law and located at Marianna Fla. He was born in 1830 and died while Judge of the first Judicial District of Fla. in 1896.

- 1 - William D. Barnes - died in Texas in 1921.
- 2 - Laura Clark Barnes - married A. Hopkins and resides in Tallahassee Fla. Has daughter (a) Arabella Hopkins.
- 3 - Sally Barnes - married Perry Holland and resided in New Orleans. Has daughter (a) Arabella Holland.
- 3 - Thomas Barnes - married Nannie L'Engle of Jacksonville, Fla. and resides in Miss.
- 4 - Edward Barnes - of Tallahassee.
- 6 - Florida Cotten Barnes - married Charles Hopkins a brother of A. Hopkins who married her sister. They reside in Tallahassee.

53 - Florida Call Cotten⁶ (John W.⁵ - Spencer D.⁴ - William³ - William² - John¹). Was born Sept. 29th, 1841 and died in 1865 when only twenty-four years of age. She was a celebrated beauty and a much beloved young lady. She was married at the house of Thomas Barnes near Marianna Fla. on Feb. 3d, 1864 to Col. William L. Saunders who attained the rank of Colonel of the 46th, N.C. Regiment during the Civil War and who after the war was one of the leaders who overthrew the carpet bag rule in North Carolina. Col. Saunders was also Sec. of State of North Carolina and compiler of the Colonial Records.

54 - John Whitaker Cotten 2d.⁶ (John W.⁵ - Spencer D.⁴ - William³ - William² - John¹). Was youngest child of John Whitaker Cotten (40). Was born in Edgecombe Co. Aug. 11th, 1845 and died in Tarboro Oct 1st, 1922. While a student at the University of North Carolina he enlisted in the Confederate Army and served through the war. He was always interested in military affairs, was Adjutant General of North Carolina and a Major of the 2nd. Reg. N.C. Vol. during the Spanish-American War. He married first Elizabeth Frink of Southport N.C. by whom he had five children. He married secondly Alice Pender of Tarboro who survived him and by whom he had two children. Children by first wife: -

- 1 - Athalea Cotten - married Dr. Davis Tayloe of Washington N.C. and has large family.
- 2 - John Whitaker Cotten 3d: - married Bessie Riddle and has family.
- 3 - Joseph Cheshire Cotten - married Sallie Wilson and has family.
- 4 - ~~William Barnes Cotten~~ - ~~unmarried~~.
- 5 - Elizabeth Frink Cotten - married William B. Howard of Tarboro a nephew of Judge Howard and has family.

Children by second wife: -

- 1 - George Howard Cotten - died in 1920 from the effects of gas re-

ceived while in service in France.

2 — Florida Call Cotten — unmarried.

- Elizabeth Cotten⁴ (William³ - William² - John¹). Was daughter of William Cotten (47). She married in 1811 Robert J. Pittman of Edgecombe Co. and had children: -

1 — Frederick Randolph Pittman — see 56.

2 — Spier Pittman — married Harriett Higgs of Halifax Co. and had at least two sons.

a - Willie Pittman

b - John Pittman — married a Miss Kitchen aunt of Gov. Kitchen and Hon. Claude Kitchen of Halifax Co. He was for many years postmaster at Scotland Neck N. C.

c - Randolph Cotten Pittman.

3 — Elizabeth Pittman — married Jesse Powell of Edgecombe Co. and had large family. One daughter married Dr. Speight of Edgecombe Co.?

- Frederick Randolph Pittman⁵ (Elizabeth⁴ - William³ - William² - John¹). Son of Elizabeth Cotten Pittman (55) was born in Edgecombe Co. N.C. Dec. 12th, 1812, married at Marianna Fla Aug. 4th, 1839 Amelia Ann Watson and died in Los Angeles Cal. July 2d. 1873. Children: -

1 — Robert John Pittman — b-Marianna Fla. June 1st, 1840, d-there Oct. 21st, 1880. Married Sept. 23rd, 1873 Chalotte Marie Daffin and left children: -

a - Maud Ethington Pittman — never married.

b - Hermia Frederick Pittman — never married.

c - William Frederick Pittman — b-Marianna Aug. 15th, 1878. d-Nov. 19th, 1900.

d - Robert John Pittman — b-Marianna Aug. 20th, 1879. Married in Tallahassee Sept. 5th, 1906 Elizabeth Virginia Dickinson and has three girls.

2 — Henretta Pittman — b-Jan. 8th, 1843, d-June 22nd, 1845.

3 — William George Pittman — d-young.

4 — Frederick Randolph Pittman — b-Aug. 31st, 1853, married Lillian Brown in Los Angeles Cal. Nov. (1927) living in Glendale Cal. and has children - (a) Idelle Pittman. (b) Lucy Pittman. (c) Roy Randolph Pittman.

5 — Spencer Cotten Pittman — died young.

6 — Charles Edwin Pittman — b-Marianna Fla. Oct. 28th, 1855. Died in Los Angeles Cal. 1896. Married in Cal. Louise Erzen March 7th, 1883. One daughter: -

a - Pearl Louise Pittman married Dr. Angue D. McKinnon of Marianna Fla. and has family.

7 — Mary Elizabeth Pittman — b-Dec. 27th, 1859, married 1st John Valantine Price. March 15th, 1882. Married secondly Clinton A. Sergeant and lives at Moravia Cal. Has family of three

children all by her first husband.

8 — Henry Walton Pittman — b-1861, died young

Chapter 6

Descendants of John Cotten through his son Arthur "The Cottens of Arthur"

57 - Arthur Cotten² (John¹). Sixth son of John Cotten (1) and wife Martha Godwin was born about 1712 and died May 20th, 1779. Unfortunately no will of Arthur Cotten has been found, the records of Hertford Co. having been destroyed by fire first in 1830 and again in 1862. Arthur Cotten established himself on lands at Ahosky, supposed to be the land described in his father's will as located on that swamp. Here he built about 1750, what is said to have been the first brick house built in Hertford Co. This place Mulberry Grove was for several generations a notable home in Eastern Carolina. The old house is still standing and until 1922 was still owned by his descendants. It is located about three miles from the village of St. Johns in Hertford Co.

Arthur Cotten is described as a man of quick temper, a vestryman of the Episcopal Church at St. Johns and a loyal supporter of the colonies during the Revolutionary War in which he was too old to take an active part. In 1782 the Kehukee Baptist Association having been refused permission to hold their Association at the Chapel of St. Johns, Arthur Cotten opened his house to them and the Association was held there. The claim that Arthur Cotten was a Sea Captain and descended from Lady Alice Lisle as set forth in Moore's History of North Carolina Vol. 1 pp-49-53 must be rejected as being entirely erroneous.

Arthur Cotten represented Hertford Co. in the General Assembly in 1778-1779, and with this exception is not known to have held public office. He married Elizabeth Rutland (died Feb. 10th, 1779) a daughter of James Rutland Jr. who resided on the farm where Northampton, Bertie and Hertford Counties now corner and whose father James Rutland Sr. was an early settler on the Bertie Peninsula and the progenitor of an extensive family there, he married in 1708 Elizabeth Williams a daughter of Louis Williams who was settled on the Maherrin River as early as 1695 and whose daughter Priscilla married Peter West (see 81). Arthur Cotten had children as follows:

- 1 — Helen Cotten — see 58.
- 2 — Silvia Cotten — b-1752 and died July 5th, 1770. Her tomb is at Mulberry Grove. She married Dr. William Usher who died in Bertie Co. in 1780 and who is also buried at Mulberry Grove. He was a Surgeon 3 and 4th Reg. N.C. Line during the Revolution.

- 3 — Carolina Cotten — b-1763, d-Feb. 6th, 1767, tomb at Mulberry Grove.
 - 4 — A daughter whose name has been lost. She married James Moore a brother of William E. Moore (see 68) and has at least two sons:
 - a - Jesse Cotten Moore.
 - b - Isaac Moore who married in 1803 Polly Jones a daughter of Col. James Jones of Pitch Landing and wife Anne Walton. (See 2 & 70). See footnote Moore's History Vol. 1 p-440.
 - c - Sarah m-Andrew Jones and had dau.-Matilda=Andrew T. Perry went to Fla. 1819.
 - 5 — Cullin Cotten — who is said to have married and resided in Hertford Co. leaving a family.
 - 6 — Godwin Cotten — see 64.
 - 7 — Jesse Cotten — see 71.
- 58 - Helen Cotten³ (Arthur² - John¹). Was eldest child of Arthur Cotten (57) and wife Elizabeth Rutland. She married first about 1765 Lewis Powell a son of Kader (Cader) Powell who was the eldest son of George Powell of Bertie Co. and had at least four sons whose names have been preserved and are given below. She married secondly Moses Tyler of Bertie Co. and had at least two sons as follows: -
- 1 — Perry C. Tyler.
 - 2 — Richard Tyler — who married Jennet Raby daughter of Blake Raby of Bertie Co. and died in 1831 leaving children: -
 - a - Calvin C. Tyler married Sept. 3rd, 1833 Adaline Williford a daughter of John Williford and wife Polly.
 - b - Moses M. Tyler
 - c - Richard A. Tyler.
 - d - Perry C. Tyler.
 - e - John L. T. Tyler.
 - f - Hiram A. C. Tyler.
 - h - Temperance A. R. Tyler married Jan. 5th, 1833 Joshua Myrick.
 - i - Helen Cotten Tyler.

Helen Cotten had children by her first husband Lewis Powell, so far as is known, as follows: -

- 1 — Arthur Cotten Powell who resided in Hertford Co. and was a large slave owner, but no descendants have been established. Colonel Cotten Powell as he was called was a well-known citizen of Hertford County and except for the records of Hertford Co. being destroyed we could not doubt discover something about him.

*Sarah Moore another child of James Moore of St. Johns married Andrew Jones. Her daughter Matilda married Andrew T. Perry. About 1819 Andrew Jones and Andrew Perry moved to Fort Dale, Ala. Their history is well known in Ala. (Letter from Mrs. Belamy 11/28/35).

2 — Lewis Powell — no record.

3 — Decater Powell — married Nancy Coffield Dec. 30th, 1807. Her mother Mrs. Mary Coffield was a daughter of Gen. Richard Carney of Halifax Co. and a sister of Mrs. Roderick Cotten (41) of Chatham. Three children are known to have been born to Decator Powell and wife Nancy Coffield: - (a) Richard Carney Powell (b) John Powell (c) Mary Carney Powell.

4 — Jesse Powell — see 59.

59 - Jesse Powell⁴ (Helen³ - Arthur² - John¹). Son of Helen Cotten and her first husband Lewis Powell was b-Dec. 5th, 1772 and died in Halifax Co. N. C. in 1850. He married Oct. 27th, 1798 Chairty Harrell of Bertie Co. and removed to Halifax Co. where he became a large and prosperous planter. He left children: -

1 — Jesse Powell — who married Miss Gatlin and left family.

a - Frances Cotten Powell, b-May 26th, 1822, m-March 1st, 1843 James Lane Battle and d-1854. N.E.

b - Jesse Powell, died young.

c - Sallie Powell, married Dr. Stallings of Enfield N.C.

d - Ella Powell, married Ashley Young of Wilson N.C.

2 — George Powell — married Miss Arrington and had children: -

a - Watts Powell.

b - Lewis Powell.

c - Thomas Powell, married Miss Cloman of Whitakers.

d - Alfred Powell, married Emmie Green.

e - Patsey Powell, married "Judge" Taylor of Rocky Mount.

f - Mary Powell, married D. Edmondson and had daughters

(1) Marietta Edmondson who married R.C. Josey of Scotland Neck and had R.C. Josey who married Anna Kitchin. Danford Josey and Huldah Josey who married Samuel Dunn of Scotland Neck.

(2) Minnie Edmondson, married Oscar Taylor and had three children, Dan Taylor, Nita Taylor and Carter Taylor. Also Mary Taylor.

3 — Eaton Powell — married a Mrs. Pittman, no children.

4 — Julia Ann Powell — see 60.

5 — Martha J. Powell — see 60.

6 — A son — name lost who married and left

a - Ermet Powell.

b - Addie Powell who married a Mr. Bivens of Enfield N.C.

60 - Julia Ann Powell⁵ (Jesse Powell⁴ - Helen³ - Arthur² - John¹)
Martha J. Powell⁵)

Julia Ann Powell married Jan. 6th, 1831 Abner J. Perry of Hertford Co. N. C. and had two sons as set forth below. After his wife's death Abner J. Perry married her sister Martha J. Powell June 8th, 1845 by whom he had one son Abner Perry. Children by Abner J. Perry by his first wife Julia Ann Powell: -

1 — Jesse A. Perry — see 61.

2 — John D. Perry — see 62.

61 - Jesse A. Perry⁶ (Julia Ann Powell⁵ - Jesse Powell⁴ - Helen³ - Arthur² - John¹). Born Feb. 18th, 1838 Jesse A. Powell served with very conspicuous gallantry in the Confederate Army. He married in 1862 Mary D. Fowle a daughter of Samuel R. Fowle and a sister of Gov. Daniel G. Fowle of North Carolina. Children: -

1 — Julia A. Perry — see 63.

2 — James F. Perry — b-Aug. 30th, 1866, married Nov. 19th, 1890 Lucy Freeman and has son (?) Ana F. Perry.

3 — Sarah T. Perry — b-April 28th, 1868, married Jan. 31st, 1906 R. C. Josey of Scotland Neck.

4 — Mary F. Perry — b-Feb. 12th, 1870, married Dec. 2d, 1891 Dr. C. C. Christian of Virginia.

5 — John D. Perry — b-Nov. 13th, 1871, married April, 1903 Julia Dunn and has children - (a) John D. Perry (b) Mary Fowle Perry (c) Dorathy Perry.

6 — Helen Cotten Perry — b-Aug. 1st, 1873, married June 4th, 1907 Rev. J. K. Henderson and has son Jesse Perry Henderson.

62 - John D. Perry⁶ (Julia Ann Powell⁵ - Jesse Powell⁴ - Helen³ - Arthur² - John¹). Married Feb. 8th, 1869 Helen S. Johnston a daughter of Rev. Samuel Iredell Johnston son of John Johnston and wife Elizabeth Cotten (see 66). Mr. Perry with his family removed to Wilcox Co. Ala. in 1871 and no list of descendants is available.

63 - Julia A. Perry⁷ (Jesse A. Perry⁶ - Julia Ann Powell⁵ - Jesse Powell⁴ - Helen³ - Arthur² - John¹). Born May 15th, 1864 she married J. Frank Brinkley of Greenville N.C. and has an interesting family:

1 — Helen Bruce Brinkley — married T. D. Parish of Raleigh N.C. and has daughter Helen Bruce Parish.

2 — Mary Fowle Brinkley — married H. B. Harward of Apex, N.C. and has son H. B. Harward Jr.

3 — Jesse Perry Brinkley — died young.

4 — J. Frank Brinkley Jr.

5 — Ruth E. Brinkley.

64 - Godwin Cotten of Mulberry Grove³ (Arthur² - John¹). Youngest son of Arthur Cotten (57) was born at Mulberry Grove in Hertford Co. and died there Aug. 13th, 1832 at a very advanced age. He is said to have been an Aide-de-Camp to Colonel Howe on his Norfolk expedition in 1776, was surveyor of the county in 1768 and as such surveyed and laid out the town of Winton the county seat. He married Sally Brown (d-Sept. 17th, 1833) a daughter of Capt. John Brown of Cuttaweskey Marsh whose wife was a daughter of Col. Matthew Brickel and wife Rachel Noailles, they were married Nov. 6th, 1748 and she died Feb. 17th, 1770. Col. Brickel was a Revolutionary soldier and was a son of Rev. Matthew Brickel the

first resident minister west of Chowan River and the founder of the Chapel of St. Johns. Rev. Matthew Brickel was a brother of Dr. John Brickel who published in Dublin 1737 a Natural History of North Carolina a work now exceedingly rare and interesting. John Brown is said to have been a retired British Army officer and a staunch Tory during the Revolution.

Godwin Cotten was an exceedingly popular man and spent his entire life at Mulberry Grove. He left only daughters. According to the first Federal Census in 1790 he seems to have had five daughters at that time, however only two survived and only two are mentioned in this will.

1 -- Elizabeth Cotten -- see 65.

2 -- Esther Cotten -- see 68.

Elizabeth Cotten⁴ (Godwin³ - Arthur² - John¹). Married first John Seymour Johnston second son of John Johnston of Sapahò Bertie Co. and wife Elizabeth Whitmel Williams. John Johnston was a brother of Gov. Samuel Johnston of Hayes and their father John Johnston of Onslow Co. was a brother of Gov. Gabriel Johnston who was for nineteen years a colonial governor of the province of North Carolina. John S. Johnston represented Bertie Co. in the Senate in 1795 and in 1800. He afterwards moved to Hertford Co. and died at Mulberry Grove while still a young man in 1807.

His widow after his death married her cousin Cornelius Moore of Rich Square in Northampton Co. No issue by this last marriage but by her first husband Elizabeth Cotten left two children: -

- 1 -- Sallie Ann Johnston -- who married General James Dean Wynns son of Benjamin Wynns 3rd of Hertford Co. and a member of a family long prominent in that section. She died in 1850, no children.
- 2 -- Samuel Iredell Johnston -- see 66.

*Elizabeth Cotten after the death of her first husband John Johnston married Cornelius Moore of near Rich Square and had children: -

- 1 -- Dr. Cornelius Godwin Cotten Moore -- who married a woman from Philadelphia. No children but adopted a boy who became a lawyer (Bowen) and married a Southall of Murfreesboro N.C. Dr. Moore lived at Rich Square.
- 2 -- Harriet Moore -- married James H. Wood of Northampton Co. N.C. and had several children, several of whom were doctors. One son the youngest named Spler Whitaker Wood married Adna Francis Bailley a daughter of Z. Bailley and wife Adna Francis Parson. Several children among whom were: Esther Cotten DeLoatche. Francis Bailly Maddrey. Viola Vishtah Raichling. Sally Wood Edwards. M.R. Wood of Miami and Adna Francis Wood who married Richard Everett Barrett and is the mother of Richard E. Barrett of Boykins Va. who furnishes this information.

Adna Francis Bailley married 1st. Richard Henry Gary and

had one son Dr. Roderick Henry Gary of Garysburg and Murfreesboro who married a daughter of Dr. John Turner Eldridge.

*(Letter from Richard E. Barrett, Box 144, Boykins Va. dated June 22, 1937.)

66 - Samuel Iredell Johnston⁵ (Elizabeth⁴ - Godwin³ - Arthur² - John¹). Was the only son of Elizabeth Cotten and John S. Johnston and was raised by his grandfather Godwin Cotten at Mulberry Grove. He graduated at the University of North Carolina in 1826 and studied law. He abandoned this profession however for the ministry and became one of the most beloved churchmen that ever resided in the state. For fifty years he was pastor of St. Pauls at Edenton. He married Margaret A. Burgwyn a daughter of George William Bush Burgwyn of the Hermitage in New Hanover Co. N.C. George William Bush Burgwyn was born at the Hermitage Sept. 2d, 1787. He was second son of John Burgwyn the American progenitor of this family. He married April 7th, 1807 Maria Nash daughter of Gov. Abner Nash. Mrs. Johnston was born at the Hermitage Nov. 1st, 1811, married Samuel Iredell Johnston Sept. 21st, 1829 and died in Edenton Nov. 16th, 1886. Issue: -

- 1 - Samuel Iredell Johnston - died young.
- 2 - James Cathert Johnston - b-1834, married Catherine Warren daughter of Dr. William Warren and sister of Dr. Edward Warren (Bey). She died Feb. 22nd, 1889 leaving six children all of whom reside in Texas.
- 3 - Maria Nash - b-1836, d-1907, married Rev. Francis W. Hillard and left issue.
- 4 - Elizabeth Cotten Johnston - see 67.
- 5 - Gabrel Johnston - Episcopal Minister, b-1842, d-1913, married and left family.
- 6 - George Burgwyn Johnston - b-1840 and graduated University of N.C. 1855. Married Nannie Johnston daughter of Dr. Chas. E. Johnson. Killed in the Civil War. (see Southern His. Soc. Papers. Vol. 18, pp-132).
- 7 - Helen S. Johnston - b-1844, married 1869 John D. Perry (see 62).
- 8 - Iredell Johnston - died unmarried.
- 9 - Francis Ann Johnston - b-March 31st, 1858, died 1907. Married John D. Parker and left issue.
- 10 - John Johnston - b-1848, married Ida Lytle and d-1877.

67 - Elizabeth Cotten Johnston⁶ (Samuel Iredell Johnston⁵ - Elizabeth⁴ - Godwin³ - Arthur² - John¹). Daughter of Samuel Johnston (66) was b-Feb. 22nd, 1838. Married Nov. 16th, 1869 Dr. Edward Warren of Edenton. Dr. Warren was a son of Dr. William C. Warren of Charles City Co. Va. and his wife Miss Alexander. Dr. Warren was a man of very unusual attainments and perhaps the most widely known medical man that North Carolina has ever produced. He served in the Confederate Army with distinction and during

the last year of the war was Surgeon General of the State of North Carolina. After the war he went to Baltimore, there he established a successful Medical College. In 1873 he accepted service in the government of the Kedive of Egypt as Medical Director. He served here with distinction and was created a Bey by the Kedive. At the fall of the Egyptian Government he located in Paris and became the best known American doctor in Europe. He was court Surgeon to Napoleon III and was decorated with the Cross of the Legion of Honor in 1876. The University of North Carolina conferred the degree of L. L. D. upon him in 1884. Dr. Warren was a warm personal friend of Gov. Vance and many other leading men of North Carolina at that time. He wrote "An Epitome of Practical Surgery" published during the war and a most interesting volume "A Doctor's Experiences on Three Continents" in 1885. He was also the author of many papers on medical subjects and was founder and editor of the North Carolina Medical Journal first published in Edenton in 1858.

Mrs. Warren died in Paris June 29th, 1879 and Dr. Warren died some years later. There were several children born to this union but only two girls survived.

- 1 — Elizabeth Cotten Warren — died about 1910 in Paris.
- 2 — Inis Warren — married Frank Bizzell and had issue (a) Frank Bizzell (b) Mary Bizzell.

68 - Esther Cotten⁴ (Godwin³ - Arthur² - John¹). Daughter of Godwin Cotten (64). Married first in 1804 James Wright Moore second son of William E. Moore Sr. and wife Elizabeth Dickinson daughter of James Dickinson of Northampton Co. Mr. Moore died June 17th, 1815 and his widow married in 1825 Capt. John Jones of Brunswick Co. Va. by whom she had one son Charles Godfrey Jones who died in Texas leaving a family. Esther Cotten is described as a woman of great beauty and an incomparable wife and mother. She died Sept. 6th, 1854 and a portrait of her is in the possession of her great grandchildren. Children by her first husband James Wright Moore: -

- 1 — Emeline Moore — married first N. W. Fletcher and had at least one daughter Margaret Fletcher who married Gen. Isham Warren of Alabama who was a Brig. General in the Confederate Army and was killed at Vicksburg in 1863. Their daughter Mary Sims Garrett married at Marion Ala. Aug. 16th, 1866 Albert Perry Hinton and left large family. (See Boddie Family 1-155).

Emiline Moore married secondly H. B. LaVert of Marion Ala.

- 2 — Sally Matilda Moore — married Turner P. Westry a son of Samuel Westry of Nash Co. No record of any children:
- 3 — Godwin Cotten Moore — see 69.

69 - Godwin Cotten Moore⁵ (Esther⁴ - Godwin³ - Arthur² - John¹). Was only son of Esther Cotten (68) and her first husband James Wright Moore. He was born at Mulberry Grove Sept. 1st, 1806 and there died May 6th, 1880. He was educated at the University of North Carolina and at the University of Pen-

sylvania where he received the degree of M.D. in 1828. Dr. Moore was one of the most prominent and best beloved citizens of North Carolina and filled many places of honor and trust. A very good sketch of him may be found in Biographical History of North Carolina Vol VIII p-354. He married in 1832 Julia Wheeler daughter of John Wheeler and his second wife Miss Wood of Murfreesboro N.C. She was a half sister of Col. John Hill Wheeler and died May 17th, 1888. Children: -

- 1 — John Wheeler Moore — see 70.
- 2 — William E. Moore of Washington D.C. — married and has family.
- 3 — Julian G. Moore of Washington D.C.
- 4 — Thomas L. Moore of New York City.
- 5 — James Wright Moore — died in 1862.
- 6 — Sallie Cotten Moore — Married S.J. Calvert of Northampton Co. and has family.
- 7 — Esther Cotten Moore — married Dr. Richard T. Weaver of Northampton Co.

70 - John Wheeler Moore⁶ (Godwin Cotten Moore⁵ - Esther⁴ - Godwin³ - Arthur² - John¹). Was son of Dr. Godwin Cotten Moore (69), was born at Mulberry Grove Oct. 23rd, 1833 and died at Mapel Lawn the ancestral home of his wife in Hertford Co. Dec. 6th, 1906. He married Sept. 28th, 1853 Ann Ward daughter of James Ward and wife Annie Jones daughter of James Jones 3d. of Pitch Landing (see 2 & 57). She was a woman of remarkable beauty and qualities and died in Baltimore about 1900.

John Wheeler Moore graduated at the University of N.C. in 1853. He served during the Civil War as Major of the 3rd. Batt. N.C. Light Arty. and at the close of the war he returned to the practice of law in Hertford Co. In 1876 he published a school history of the State. In 1880 he published his "History of North Carolina" in two volumes. In 1881 he published a novel of 493 pages. In 1882 he was employed by the State to supervise the publication of a Roster of N.C. Troops who served in the Civil War. This work was completed in four volumes. He was the father of twelve children, among whom

- 1 — John Wheeler Moore — b-Aug. 29th, 1866 is an engineer, married Oct. 4th, 1893 Elizabeth Peddicord of Davis W. Va.
- 2 — A daughter — married in 1884 William Smith Yeates son of Jesse J. and Virginia Scott of Hertford Co.
- 3 — Arthur Cotten Moore — married Miss Riddick and has large family.

71 - Jesse Cotten³ (Arthur² - John¹). Son of Arthur Cotten and wife Elizabeth Rutland (57) was b-Oct. 30th, 1754 and died Dec. 12th, 1802 being only forty-eight years of age. He lived on his plantation in Bertie Co. which is still owned by his descendants and where many of his descendants are buried. His family Bible has been preserved and has furnished most of the dates concerning his descendants given here. His name is con-

tained in the first Federal Census of 1790 and he was at that time the father of four children and the owner of fourteen slaves. He married June 25th, 1777 Martha Whitehead daughter of William Whitehead and wife Abby. William Whitehead was prominent in the establishment of Halifax Co., was its first Sheriff and often a member of the General Assembly. Mrs. Marthy (Whitehead) Cotten was born Sept. 13th, 1758 and died Dec. 22d, 1838 having been a widow for thirty-six years. Children: -

- 1 — Lewis Cotten — b-July 24th, 1778, d-Feb. 8th, 1817. No further record.
- 2 — Cullen Cotten — b-Dec. 25th, 1785. No further record
- 3 — Elizabeth C. Cotten — see 72.
- 4 — Carolina Cotten — b-June 10th, 1792. No further record.
- 5 — Polly Cotten — b-March 7th, 1793, d-Dec. 15th, 1861, married March 18th, 1813 Johnston Higgs who died in Bertie Co. Jan 23rd, 1839. No children.
- 6 — Dolly Cotten — b-Dec. 8th, 1793, married James Purvis Carter of Bertie Co. and left one son Willie Carter who married and left two sons. James Purvis Carter was son of Robert Carter who died in Bertie Co. 1784.
- 7 — Jesse Cotten 2d. — see 73.
- 8 — Godwin Cotten — see 74.

72 - Elizabeth C. Cotten⁴ (Jesse³ - Arthur² - John¹). Was daughter of Jesse Cotten (71), was b-March 18th, 1788 and d-April 14th, 1817. She married May 20th, 1806 Henry Andrews of Bertie Co. Only one child is known to have been born of this marriage, Martha E. Andrews who was left early an orphan and who was raised by her grandmother Martha Whitehead Cotten at the old homestead in Bertie Co. She married June 26th, 1832 Asa Biggs. Judge Biggs was a son of Joseph Biggs (b-Nov. 12th, 1766, d-May 31st, 1844) and wife Chloe Daniel (b-1779, d-Oct. 20th, 1845, married Feb. 4th, 1808). Judge Biggs was born in Williamston in N.C. Feb. 4th, 1811, admitted to the bar in 1835. He was in the State Legislature in 1840-1844 and a member of Congress 1846.

He was elected U.S. Senator in 1858 but resigned to accept an appointment as Judge of the U.S. District Court which position he held until the outbreak of the Civil War. He was a member of the Convention that passed the Ordinance of Secession in 1861. During the war he was Judge of the District Court of the Confederacy. After the war he practiced law in Williamston and Tarboro. Having been debarred from practice before the State Supreme Court during reconstruction days Judge Biggs retired from the bar and entered into the commission business at Norfolk where he died March 6th, 1878.

Children of Judge Asa Biggs and Martha E. Andrews: -

- 1 — Lucy Biggs — died unmarried.
- 2 — Martha Cotten Biggs — married William T. Crawford of Williamston N.C. and had children: -

- a - Henry Crawford.
- b - Asa Crawford.
- c - Kader Crawford.
- d - Benjamin Crawford.
- e - Martha Cotten Crawford.
- f - Anna Biggs Crawford.

3 - William Biggs - married Lizzie Cooper of Oxford N.C. and had children: -

- a - William Biggs.
- b - J. Crawford Biggs. Married and has children.
- c - Jeannette Biggs.
- d - L

4 - Chloe Francis Biggs - married Cornelius Kellinger of Elizabeth City N.C. and has son Frank Kellinger.

5 - Henry Biggs - killed in the Civil War, unmarried.

6 - Asa Biggs - married Lucy Massenburg of Southampton Co. Va. and has son - Asa Biggs Massenburg.

7 - Mary Della Biggs - married G.A. Cotten (see 38).

8 - Anna Eugenia Biggs - married Samuel H. VanCleve of Princeton N.J. and has children: -

- a - Eugene Biggs VanCleve, dead 1920.
- b - George Arthur VanCleve - Helen Hunt. n.I.

73 - Jesse Cotten 2d.⁴ (Jesse³ - Arthur² - John¹). Was son of Jesse Cotten (71)b-Feb. 13th, 1797, d-Nov. 27th, 1838, married Levinia Young a daughter of John Young and wife Sarah. There was only one child by this marriage.

1 - Mary Jane Levinia Young - who married Kader Biggs a brother of Judge Asa Biggs (72) and left family among whom:

- a - Mary Jane Cotten Biggs, b-Feb. 7th, 1846, d- . She married John E. Wood of Virginia and has children residing in New York as follows: 1-Loula M. Wood married Oscar Williams of New York and has children.
- b - Dr. H. Walton Wood (dead) married Grace White of Baltimore.
- c - Jane Cotten Wood, unmarried.
- d - John Early Wood Jr. of New York.

74 - Godwin Cotten⁴ (Jesse³ - Arthur² - John¹). Son of Jesse Cotten (71) was born at the old homestead in Bertie Co. Sept. 6th, 1800 and died there Dec. 24th, 1843. He married first Feb. 2d, 1819 Cynthia Raby who died May 27th, 1821 leaving son.

1 - Lewis Cotten - see 75.

Godwin Cotten married secondly April 20th, 1826 ? Marie Rhodes and left children as follows: -

- 1 - Harriette Temperance Cotten - b-Oct. 11th, 1828, d-Aug. 13th, 1874. Married William A. Pugh (d-July 29th, 1870) and had children.

a - William A. Pugh, unmarried, lived in Texas.

b - Mrs. Dr. B.M. Walker of Danville Va. who has children

1-B.M. Walker and Harriette N. Walker.

2 - Cullen Cotten - b-April 11th, 1830, served in the Confederate Army and died in Bertie Co. Unmarried.

3 - Joseph Cotten - b-June 10th, 1832. Served in the Confederate Army. After the war removed to Texas where he married and died without issue.

4 - Mary Eliza Cotten - b-Oct. 11th, 1834, married Sept. 13th, 1854 Major Alfred F. Garrett of Plymouth N.C. and left two sons: -

a - Alfred Garrett, b-Aug. 23d, 1855, married and left family.

b - Kenneth Garrett, b-Jan. 1st, 1857, married and has family.

5 - Margaret Ann Cotten - b-April 27th, 1836, d-March, 1897. Married Sept. 13th, 1854 ? - Jesse C. Jacocks of Bertie Co. and left children: -

a - Jesse Cotten Jacocks, b-June 1868, d-Feb. 1902.

b - John H. Jacocks, b-Jan. 5th, 1874 now living in Tarboro N.C.

6 - Martha Jane Cotten - b-April 27th, 1838, d-Oct. 5th, 1870 unmarried.

7 - Esther Elizabeth Cotten - b-Aug. 26th, 1842. Never married.

75 - Lewis Cotten⁵ (Godwin⁴ - Jesse³ - Arthur² - John¹). Son of Godwin Cotten (74) and his first wife Cynthia Raby. He was born at the Cotten homestead in Bertie Co. Dec. 30th, 1820 where he continued to live until his death. He married first Sarah Powell Dec. 20th, 1845, she died Jan 26th, 1840 leaving one son.

1 - Godwin Cotten - see 76.

Mr. Cotten married secondly on Oct. 18th, 1853 Martha C. Sessems, she died June 10th, 1889 leaving two children: -

1 - Martha Agnes Cotten - b-Sept. 26th, 1854, married _____ Wood and has family living.

2 - Harret Martha Cotten - b-Feb. 27th, 1860 - see 77.

76 - Godwin Cotten⁶ (Lewis⁵ - Godwin⁴ - Jesse³ - Arthur² - John¹). Was only son and child of Lewis Cotten (75) and his first wife Cynthia Raby. He was born Oct. 1st, 1846 and married Kate Lovejoy of Raleigh N.C.

1 - Godwin Cotten married and has family. Living in Charleston S.C.

77 - Harret Martha Cotten⁶ (Lewis⁵ - Godwin⁴ - Jesse³ - Arthur² - John¹). Youngest daughter of Lewis Cotten (75) and his second wife Martha C. Sessoms. She was b-Feb. 27th, 1860 at the old Cotten homestead in Bertie Co. Married Charles Skinner of Perquimans Co. N.C. and has a large and most interesting family which must be gathered and placed here.

Three numbers are reserved for this space.

Chapter 7

Descendants of John Cotten through his son Alexander "The Cottens of Alexander"

81 - Alexander Spotswood Cotten² (John¹). Son of John Cotten (1) and wife Martha Godwin was born at South Quay in Va. about 1711. He is the only child of John Cotten who is known to have had a middle name. Indeed middle names were practically never used in those days or for a century afterwards. It is a striking thing that of all the wills on record in the Secretary of State office at Raleigh, comprising all the wills preserved of North Carolina up to about the year 1765, there is only the will of one person who used a middle name that being John Baptista Ashe of Bath Co. The absence of middle names is also most pronounced in the Federal Census taken in 1790. Here we have 42,480 names of heads of families then residing in North Carolina among which only 46 had a middle name.

Alexander S. Cotten was undoubtedly named for Alexander Spotswood the brilliant young Royal Governor of Virginia who was sometimes at his father's house about the time that Alexander was born. There are some indications that Alexander was a favorite son in his father's family. Frederick Jones Chief Justice of the Province of North Carolina was his godfather and sold a plantation in Bertie Precinct to John Cotten with the proviso that it should go to Alexander Cotten. Alexander also made two marriages, both of which appear to have been, in some respects, more brilliant than the marriages of his brothers. Yet one of the marriages came to grief and it has been impossible to discover anything at all about his descendants except in one line.

Indeed for years in this research it seemed impossible to trace any descendants at all until the Journal of Rev. James L. Cotten (86) was discovered. This Journal was found in the possession of Mrs. Marthy Cotten Banks of Opelika Alabama. This will be quoted from extensively at several places in this Chapter.

The records of Hertford County having been destroyed, no will of Alexander Cotten has been discovered. However, the will of Robert Foster dated Feb. 12th, 1739 mentions his daughter Ann Cotten and his son-in-law Alexander Cotten, also his Cotten grandchildren. Robert Foster was Deputy Secretary of State, Clerk of the Council and a leader in Colonial political affairs. He resided in Bertie Co. and was a large land and slave owner. Alexander Cotten after his marriage resided at Cottens Ferry on the Chowan River. This place was first known as Outlaws, then

for over fifty years it was known as Cottens Ferry. It later became known as Newsome and for many years now has been called Barfield. It was on the first Post Route established in North Carolina and was designated place for the inspection of Tobacco. Here Alexander Cotten lived and in addition to his farms conducted a store and "Ordinary".

When Hertford Co. was established in 1759 the Cotten Family made a very strenuous effort to have the county seat established here and came very near being successful. However the Wynns Family were finally successful in having it established further up the river hence Winton.

The children of Alexander Cotten mentioned in the will of Robert Foster are:

- 1 — Jemima Cotten — no further record.
- 2 — Susanna Cotten — no further record.
- 3 — Child of Ann Cotten "in esse".

Mrs. Ann Foster Cotten must have died shortly after her father's will was probated for it is certain that about 1741 Alexander Cotten married Elizabeth West a daughter of Peter West of Bertie Co. Peter West was one of the founders of Bertie Co., and for many years a presiding magistrate of the County. His wife was Priscilla Williams a daughter of Lewis Williams whose daughter Elizabeth married James Rutland Sr. (57). In the will of Peter West probated May Court 1751 he says of his daughter Elizabeth Cotten. "Her marriage hath proved unhappy and I have given her children four negroes as by deed of gift bearing date Nov. 15th, 1748." This deed of gift has been found and names of her children Abner and Cyrus Cotten, it states however that she has others and infers rather positively that she had four children before leaving her husband and returning home. These children of Alexander Cotten and his second wife Elizabeth West were: -

- 1 — Abner Cotten — There was a Abner Cotten residing in Rowan Co. N.C. in 1790 with a family of four sons and three daughters; who is supposed to have been this son of Alexander S. Cotten.
- 2 — Cyrus Cotten — see 82.
- 3 — Alexander Spotswood Cotten 2d. — He was also thought to have gone to Rowan Co. N.C. where he was residing in 1790. No family.

Of Alexander Spotswood 2d. Rev. James Cotten (86) writing in his Journal under date of June 10th, 1848 at which time he was visiting his uncle William Cotten (83) says that he "was once fishing in Chowan River and caught a catfish. His foot slipping up in his canoe he fell and stuck the fin of the catfish in his knee which made him stiff legged over afterwards".

- 4 — William Cotten — see 83.

82 - Cyrus Cotten³ - (Alexander S.² - John¹). This Cyrus Cotten married but nothing whatever is known of his descendants. Rev. Mr. Cotten (86) in his

Journal writing under date of June 10th, 1848 says:

"Got off the Rail Road last evening near John Cottens (Monroe Co. Ga.) and went to his house to get a horse to go to my uncles. This Mr. Cotten is a son of Cyrus Cotten a brother of my uncle's father. He enlisted in the army in 1799 at about the age of twenty. Was under Col. Hawkins and Gen. Wilkinson. He left the service in 1804. He is a married man but has no children. He is rich. I staid with him last night."

83 - William Cotten³ (Alexander S.² - John¹). Was son of Alexander Spotswood Cotten (81). He resided on his father's old place Cotten Ferry on the Chowan River but nothing whatever is known of his life except that he was living in 1790 and at that time had a family of four sons and two daughters living.

From Rev. Mr. Cotten's (86) Journal he says under date of June 10th, 1848 while on a visit to his uncle William Cotten (83) then residing in Monroe Co. Ga. "My Uncle is about seventyfive years of age. He says that his father William was prep (?) Master in Cates Army and was at his defeat. He remembers that the horse upon which his father left home to enter that army was a large black horse with white face, glass eye and two white hind feet".

William Cotten married Ann Kirven, of whom nothing has been discovered. Children so far as known and as established by Rev. Mr. Cotten's (86) Journal were as follows:-

- 1 — John Cotten — b-about 1769. Mr. Cotten has the following note in reference to him written in 1848. "My uncle John Cotten has been lost from the family for about forty or forty-five years. He is living in Warren Co. Tenn. twelve miles north-east of McMinnville on the Caney folk River. His son Starkey came to Uncle William Cotten's and Uncle Billy has received a letter from him. Uncle John is about 80 years old and was married in 1813. He has seven children living.

Sons - William Fulson, John M., Reubin Cervel (?), Starkey Thomas, Alexander Spotswood, and daughters - Elvira (?), and Mary Lodemia (?).

- 2 — Jemima Cotten — married first a Mr. Horton and secondly a Mr. Rutland. She left children by both. Among her Horton children was Josiah Horton who emigrated to Georgia, was married twice and died in 1846 leaving family, as follows:-
 - a - Martha who married a Mr. Allen in Monroe Co. Ga.
 - b - Josiah Horton.
 - c - Edney Horton.
 - d - James Horton.
 - e - Moriah Horton.
 - f - Rebecca Horton.
 - g - Roderick Horton.
 - h - Thomas Horton.

Among her Rutland children was Roderick Rutland who never married and died in Monroe Co. Ga.

- 3 — Sarah Cotten — married a Mr. Horn of Edgecombe Co. N.C. and emigrated to Monroe Co. Ga. and left at least two sons.
- 4 — Starkey Cotten — no record.
- 5 — Penney Cotten — never married, died in Monroe Co. Ga. in 1846.
- 6 — Alexander Spotswood Cotten — see 84.
- 7 — Nancy Cotten — never married and died near Winton in Hertford Co. N.C.
- 8 — Lemuel Cotten — married 1st Nov. 23rd, 1809 Mrs. Pathenia Standin of Chowan Co. N.C., married secondly April 10th, 1817 Elizabeth Haughton of Chowan Co. N.C. No record of any children.
- 9 — William Cotten — b-1773 and died in Monroe Co. 1854. Married but left no children. Mr. Cotten (86) makes considerable mention of several visits to him in Georgia.

84 - Alexander Spotswood Cotten 3d.⁴ (William³ - Alexander S.² - John¹). Alexander Cotten was born in Hertford Co. N.C. son of William Cotten (83) about 1785. In 1810 Mr. Cotten decided to emigrate to Georgia, following a stream of emigrants that for many years had been pouring out of North Carolina into the south and west. These emigrants very frequently followed each other to the south and west and generally settled in localities where many of their own people and neighbors had settled. Thus we find many counties in the south and west that were entirely settled by North Carolinians, others by Virginians, still others by people from the New England and so on. It seems that Monroe Co. Ga. was settled by people from eastern North Carolina. Mr. Cotten had a number of kin and a large acquaintance already settled there. Being without family he started for Georgia on horseback which was then the ideal and most convenient way to travel. Passing through Edgecombe Co. he had the misfortune of losing his horse and not having the ready means to replace the horse, he decided to locate in Edgecombe Co. where he also had many kin. He employed himself to Mr. Peter Evans a large plantation owner of Pitt Co. and took charge of his plantation on Town Creek in Edgecombe Co. He purchased a plantation himself in that section and died there in 1834. He married Jan. 14th, 1814 Martha Wilkins a daughter of William Wilkins and wife a Miss Mercer of Edgecombe Co. She died in 1837 leaving children: -

- 1 — Peter Evans Cotten — died young.
- 2 — James Lawrence Cotten — see 86.
- 3 — Andrew Spotswood Cotten 4th — see 85.
- 5 — Martha Ann Cotten — b-June 15th, 1826, married Dec. 29th, 1842 Willie Belcher who died in 1848 leaving two children: -
 - a - Mary Jane Belcher b-Dec. 23rd, 1844.
 - b - Martha Ann Belcher b-Dec. 4th, 1846.

One of these married Van B. Sharp and had son Van. B. Sharp Jr. who resided in Whitakers.

6 — Emily Hervey Cotten — b-Nov. 12th, 1821, married Feb. 5th, 1837 Robert Belcher a brother of Willie Belcher above and son of John Belcher. She died July 12th, 1846, leaving children.

85 - Alexander Spotswood Cotten 4th⁵ (Alexander S. Cotten 3d.⁴ - William³ - Alexander S. Cotten 1st² - John¹). Was son of Alexander S. Cotten (84) and was born near Old Sparta in Edgecombe Co. May 12th, 1830. He graduated in Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in 1854 and located in the town of Wilson as a practicing physician. Wilson was at that time a village of about a dozen houses and Dr. Cotten was the first physician to locate there. He built and resided in a large frame house on Nash Street on the lot adjoining where the Briggs Hotel now stands and on the site where a Sanatorium was afterwards built. This house was occupied by R. R. Cotten and family for several years and the compiler of this record was born there. The house is still standing but has been removed to another lot in the same block.

Dr. Cotten married Nov. 28th, 1854 Sarah Vick, sixteen years of age, a daughter of Josiah Vick Esq. of Nash Co. and a sister of Mrs. Dr. J. R. Mercer of Edgecombe Co. Dr. Cotten died before the Civil War and his widow married Dr. N. ? Herrin a well known physician of Wilson. He left two children who were raised by his sister Mrs. Belcher.

1 — Susan Cotten — who married Jesse Battle of Nash Co. and lives near Whitakers in Edgecombe Co. N.C. She has at least one son Alexander Spotswood Battle.

2 — Elizabeth Cotten — married (?) and lives near Whitakers.

86 - James Lawrence Cotten⁵ (Alexander S.⁴ - William³ - Alexander S. 1st² - John¹). Son of Alexander Spotswood Cotten 3d. (84). Was born in Edgecombe Co. June 1st, 1817. He was well educated and commenced the study of both law and medicine. He had however from early life had a strong inclination for the ministry and was licensed a Methodist preacher in 1843 when only twenty years of age and while he was teaching a school in Ala.

He remained a devout Methodist preacher ever afterwards and became a very much beloved churchman, especially in Ala. where he spent most of his life. Mr. Cotten kept a Journal several volumes of which are in the hands of his daughter Mrs. Mattie Cotten Banks of Opelika Ala. The portion of this Journal that pertains to his life in North Carolina and to the Cotten family has been carefully copied and retained by the compiler of this record. It is a most valuable record as it pertains to this branch of the family. However it is not in every detail correct as Mr. Cotten got most of the information concerning his ancestors from his Uncle William Cotten (83-9) who was himself an old man at that time. He supposed the Cotten family to have been founded in North Carolina by five brothers who came over from England, when as a matter of fact these five brothers were sons of John Cotten (1) and were all born in Virginia.

Mr. Cotten was married Jan 12th, 1853 to Miss Lucy Ann Curtis of Cahaba Ala. Two children survive from this union, one having died in

at Newham Bryan Herring.

infancy: -

- 1 - Martha Ann Cotten - married in Ala. John James Banks son of Rev. Dunstan Marlon Banks and Cordelia Allen. Children: -
 - a - Lucy Curtis Banks, married W.R. Power.
 - b - Martha Antoinette Banks, married John C. Farley.
 - c - John J. Banks, married Miss Zachery.
- 2 - Lucy Curtis Cotten - married H.C. Glenn and has children: -
 - a - Walter Glenn.
 - b - Martha Glenn.
 - c - Ellen Glenn, married Guy Wynn.
 - d - Hilda Glenn.
 - e - Clarence Glenn, married Carrie Spurlock.
 - f - Louise Glenn, married Armstrong Hill who died in the Army while in France.

87 - Andrew Jackson Cotten⁵ (Alexander S.⁴ - William³ - Alexander S.² - John¹).
 Was born in Edgecombe Co. N.C. June 1st, 1817 and died there at his father's old place at a very advanced age. He married Feb. 15th, 1844 Elizabeth Belcher a daughter of John Belcher and sister to Robert and Willie Belcher who married the sisters of Andrew J. Cotten. She died Aug. 18th, 1847 leaving two children (a) Alexander Spotswood Cotten 5th. (b) Sarah Elizabeth Cotten. Both of whom died young. Mr. Cotten married secondly Mary Elizabeth Jenkins Aug. 1856. Children: -

- 1 - Lula Cotten - married Willie Oats.
- 2 - Kate Cotten - married John Oats.
- 3 - Ida - died young.
- 4 - Annie Cotten - married Luther Hart of Tarboro N.C. and has family.
- 5 - Mary Cotten - married Frederick Shockey.

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